■ NEWS / A2

It's final: Magdalo leaders to face court-martial

■ SPORTS / A21

Blue Eagles seek revenge vs Green Archers

■ METRO / A19

Worker shot dead at Caloocan picket

■ BUSINESS / B1

Taxes eat up 46.4% of entrepreneurs' profits

'Dubya' tells Gloria Fil-Am cook 'fantastic'

KAWAWANG GMA, DI NAPURI!

UNITED NATIONS—US President George W. Bush had nothing but praise for the new, Filipino-American executive chef of the White House when he ran into President Macapagal-Arroyo outside the UN

DUBYA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Fil-Am pedophile ordered to pay RP teenage victims

LOS ANGELES—A US FEDERAL JUDGE ON Tuesday ordered a convicted pedophile to pay restitution to his teenage victims in the Philippines, marking the first award of its kind in a child sex tourism case.

US District Judge R. Gary Klausner ordered Edilberto Datan, 61, of San Diego to pay $16,475 to eight boys he sexually abused dur-

FIL-AM/ A18

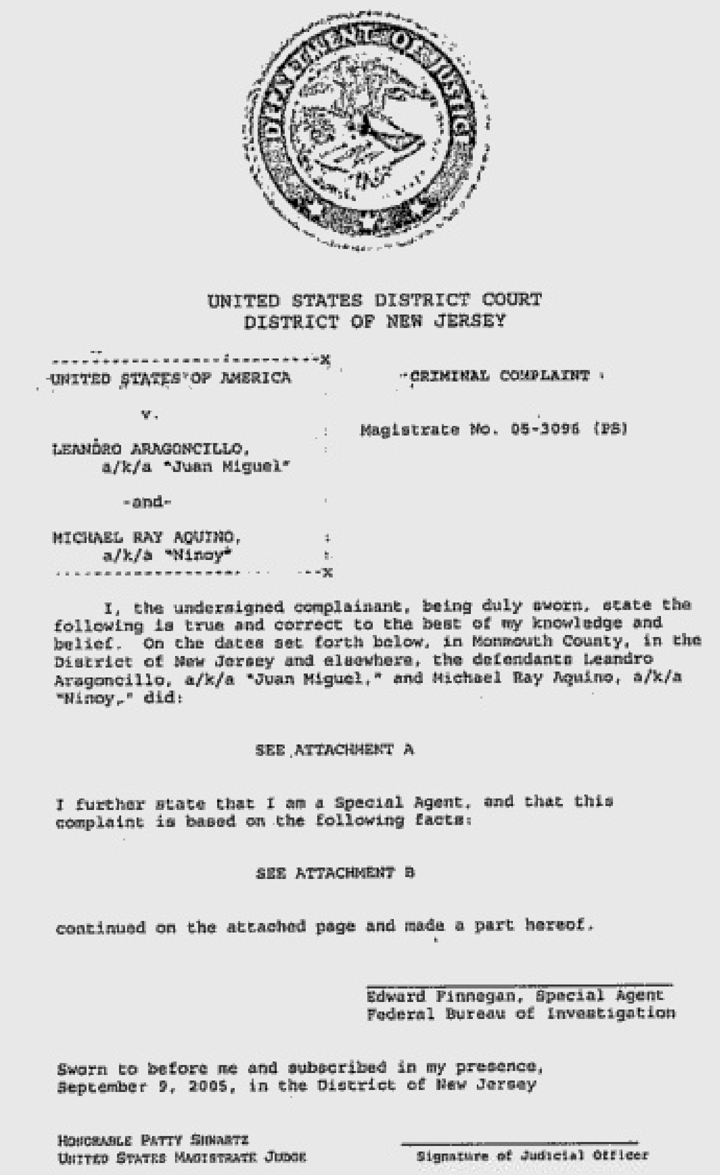
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, September 15, 2005 ★★ 50 pages / 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 279 P18

website: www.inq7.net

'Extradition for 3 execs in spy case'

DOJ awaits arrest warrants in US



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
v.
LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO,
a/k/a "Juan Miguel"
-and-
MICHAEL RAY AQUINO,
a/k/a "Ninoy"

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Magistrate No. 05-3096 (PS)

I, the undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On the dates set forth below, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendants Leandro Aragoncillo, a/k/a "Juan Miguel," and Michael Ray Aquino, a/k/a "Ninoy," did:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

Edward Finnegan, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,
September 9, 2005, in the District of New Jersey

HONORABLE PATTY SHWARTZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Signature of Judicial Officer

THIS is the complaint filed against Michael Ray Aquino and Leandro Aragoncillo. *(See Page A17 for first installment.)*

By Armand N. Nocum and TJ Burgonio *in Manila* **and Gil Cabacungan Jr.** *in New York*

THE PHILIPPINE GOVernment will readily turn over to US authorities three Filipino politicians implicated in the alleged espionage activities of former police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino in the United States, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Aquino, a close associate of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was charged Monday with espionage by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), along with Leandro Aragoncillo, an FBI intelligence analyst.

Special agents of the FBI arrested Aquino at his residence in Queens, New York, and Aragoncillo at his home in Woodbury, Gloucester County, in New Jersey, on Saturday.

The charge sheet said Aragoncillo passed on classified information about Filipino leaders to Aquino,

EXTRADITION/ A17

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers with Speaker Jose de Venecia at the Asean-UN Summit, where she called for collective action among Asean nations and their trading partners in easing the impact of high oil prices.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'STRONGER' PRESIDENT

'I arrived here in New York with the wind at my back'

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo is much "stronger," albeit unpopular, after emerging from her darkest political period.

Ms Arroyo showed confidence at a meeting with foreign investors, her first since her political problems started coming to a boil three months ago with the surfacing of her wiretapped phone conversations with an election official allegedly concerning cheating in the 2004 polls.

"I arrived here in New York with the wind at my back after weeks and weeks of terrible political turmoil and terrible problems with oil… I believe I am politically stronger today than a month ago," the President yesterday said during a lunch meeting at the St. Regis Hotel, where she and her team are billeted.

She is scheduled to preside over a UN Security Council meeting today.

Malacañang officials refused to name those present at the power lunch, but said they were members of Ms Arroyo's international board of advisers (composed of CEOs of giant firms in banking, insurance and manufacturing) and officials of the US-Asean Business Council.

Ms Arroyo's confidence is a result of not only the House of Representatives' dismissal of three impeachment complaints against her but also the affirmation of the expanded value-added tax, which she described as the "cornerstone" of her "economic

I ARRIVED/ A8

Lawmakers want Gonzales in hot seat

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKERS in the House of Representatives yesterday said National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales should explain his contract with a US law firm to seek funding for the planned Charter change, and said they would not prevent a formal investigation of the issue.

Militant lawmakers were quick to file House Resolution No. 945 calling for an inquiry into the contract with the Baltimore-based Venable LLP, and for it to be rescinded.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, one of the authors of the resolution, said the contract would "open the way for compromises that would result in a total sellout of the national patrimony."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, vice chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, called on Gonzales to clarify details of the contract.

"Congress must look into these details. We won't stand in the way of an inquiry into the matter," Nograles said in a statement.

"This is shocking and contemptible, if it is true," said Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita admitted to reporters that Malacañang had hired the services of an American lobby firm, and said Gonzales would explain what it was all about.

Ermita said that he was able to

LAWMAKERS / A6

Church urges probe of '04 polls

By Christian V. Esguerra

A DAY AFTER THE PHILIPPINE Catholic Church hierarchy declared that the search for truth must go on, its polling watchdog yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to investigate allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo stole last year's presidential balloting.

"Our political turmoil needs closure," the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) said in a statement. "We suggest that this proceeding be done (by the Comelec) in light of full public transparency by inviting its citizens' arm and other civil society groups to join its legal department in these investigations."

The group also proposed that Comelec's findings be placed under "full public scrutiny" within a definite timeframe.

An association of lay leaders and clerics, the PPCRV has been an accredited poll watcher since the 1992 election. The late Jaime Cardinal Sin was its honorary chair. During the May 2004 polling, the PPCRV fielded 400,000 watchers who worked alongside citizen volunteers of Namfrel, or the National Movement for Free Elections.

In June 2004, the PPCRV said it would pursue its investigation into alleged widespread disenfranchisement of voters despite the bishops' pronouncement that there had been no massive electoral fraud during the balloting.

On Tuesday, the permanent council of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) issued the prelates' first official reaction to the squashing in the House of Representatives on Sept. 6 of the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo over allegations she rigged the elections.

The 12-member council said that the search for truth within the rule of law must continue. It

CHURCH/ A18

EDWIN Aguilar, husband of the Filipino murder suspect in Singapore, sits with his sons at home in Tagudin, Ilocos Sur.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Pinay slay suspect's moves caught on video

SINGAPORE—POLICE HAVE seized videotapes believed to have captured the movements of Filipino murder suspect Guen Garlejo Aguilar a few days before the gruesome slaying of her compatriot, Jane Parangan La Puebla, in Singapore.

The images were recorded on the closed-circuit television system at the SunGlade Condominium in Serangoon Avenue 2, where Aguilar, 29, allegedly killed La Puebla, 26.

The English-language daily Straits Times said police also interviewed Tuesday several taxi drivers in connection with the case.

Aguilar has been remanded for one week while the police Special Investigation Section continues its investigations.

The Philippines Overseas Labor Office in Singapore is attempting to repatriate the remains of La Puebla, but the forensic examinations are expected to take at least two weeks.

The Singapore police confirmed that the Philippine government would send its forensic pathologist here to witness the post-mortem.

La Puebla, mother of a 9-year-old son, is believed to have been killed some time after 10 a.m. last

PINAY/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will have cloudy skies, with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Central and Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L BONABENTE PDI RESEARCH/09/15/05

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
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Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

It's court-martial for Magdalo

It's final, rules military court

By dona Pazzibugan

A COURT-MARTIAL ruled with finality yesterday that the 29 leaders of the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny would continue to stand trial.

But shortly after it made the ruling, the military court was stumped on how to proceed.

The six-member tribunal denied the 29 junior officers' appeal to reverse the court's Aug. 4 ruling.

The court insisted on its previous decision that all the accused have been arraigned before the case prescribed last July 26.

"After carefully considering the arguments for and against the motion raised by both parties, the motion for reconsideration is hereby denied," said the court's law member, Lt. Col. Edmund Janda, who read the decision.

"The court was convinced that there was a valid arraignment of the accused," he added.

He said the junior officers, who have called themselves the "Magdalo" group, were considered arraigned last July 13 when the charges were read in court.

Ignorant and confused

But except for Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, the officers were not individually asked for their pleas.

After Janda read the ruling, military prosecutors moved to ask the rest of the accused how they plead to the charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Defense lawyers quickly opposed this.

"The ruling will traverse the ruling of the court that the arraignment was complete, proper and valid," lawyer Theodore Te told the court.

"I admit my ignorance, now I'm really confused," said Ed Abaya, another defense lawyer.

In their motion for reconsideration, defense lawyers pointed out that the court had previously recognized that only two out of the 29 accused have been arraigned as of midnight of July 26.

Under the law, charges have to be dismissed if the accused is not arraigned two years after the alleged offense.

Janda, however, insisted yesterday that entering the plea of an accused is not part of the arraignment process.

Adjourned

He said arraignment consisted only of reading the charges and asking the accused for his plea.

The court president, Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr,. called the lawyers to a private conference and then adjourned the hearing shortly before noon without resolving the question.

The next hearing is on Sept. 26.

When interviewed, defense lawyer Roel Pulido said the Magdalo officers were "dismayed with the process" and appealed to the court to be consistent.

Although the Court of Appeals has upheld last Tuesday a Makati trial court's decision allowing 26 of the 29 officers to post bail, the mutiny leaders would remain in detention during their military trial.

"The general attitude of the government is to keep them in jail. We won the bail proceedings but still, the net effect is they remain in jail," Pulido said.

CAPT. MILO Maestrecampo confers with co-accused Magdalo leaders. AP

ERAP PLUNDER TRIAL

Defense stalling, prosecutors lament

By Nelson F. Flores

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DENNIS VILLA-IGnacio yesterday expressed exasperation over the snail's pace with which defense witnesses are being presented by the lawyers of detained ex-President Estrada, saying it was unnecessarily delaying the resolution of the criminal cases against the deposed leader at the Sandiganbayan.

He said this was the first time that he has come across lawyers who are not interested in the speedy disposition of a criminal case against their client.

Villa-Ignacio showed his extreme frustration after defense lawyers led by Jose Flaminiano failed to present anyone on the witness stand despite the presence of one defense witness yesterday.

"By calling irrelevant witnesses like journalists, book authors and librarians to the witness stand, they are obviously killing time," a fuming Villa-Ignacio told reporters after the hearing.

He said the testimonies of witnesses presented by the defense have no bearing or significance on the plunder and perjury charges that Estrada is facing.

Flaminiano said their witness, lawyer Manuel Curato, a top PCI-Equitable Bank official, asked the court for more time to review the court records that would be the focus of his testimony. He said Curato's request was granted by the court for it was his right to be prepared before testifying.

He said Curato's testimony was in connection with the defense contention that his earlier testimony and that of Clarissa Ocampo, another PCI-Equitable Bank official, about the controversial Jose Velarde account should be suppressed for being illegally extracted and presented.

Flaminiano said the testimonies of Curato and Ocampo had not been subpoenaed during Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate, which constituted itself as an impeachment court.

Also, since the two allegedly failed to obtain permission from Jaime Dichaves, which the defense claims to be the owner of the Velarde account, when they volunteered information regarding the account before the impeachment court, their testimonies should not be accepted by the Sandiganbayan.

"These testimonies should be thrown out having been the fruits of the poisoned tree, Flaminiano said.

"Since the original sin was committed in the impeachment court, it is not washed away by reintroducing evidence here (Sandiganbayan) that could not have been lawfully considered in the aborted impeachment trial," he said.

The prosecution considers the testimonies of Ocampo and Curato the cornerstone of their efforts to convict Estrada for plunder, an offense punishable with death.

Ocampo testified that she saw Estrada sign the name Jose Velarde in opening the controversial Jose Velarde account.

Estrada is under house arrest in his rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

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Defensor: Reconciliation won't touch Erap cases

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY MICHAEL DEfensor said reconciliation with detained ex-President Estrada will not involve issues related to the plunder and perjury cases against the deposed leader that are now pending before the Sandiganbayan Anti-graft Court.

Defensor, who is brokering the reconciliation talks with the opposition and had initially floated the possibility of granting bail to Estrada on his own recognizance, said the government would not offer anything that could be construed as influencing the Sandiganbayan.

"The dropping of charges is impossible… The cases cannot be touched. We cannot talk about the cases, that's it," he said.

Defensor said he could not even discuss the so-called city arrest being proposed by Estrada's counsel.

In a pleading before the court, Estrada defense lawyer Rene Saguisag suggested the type of arrest given to former Indonesian dictator Suharto in Jakarta since 2000.

Under this arrangement, Estrada would be taken from his Tanay rest house detention and allowed to stay within the municipal limits of San Juan whose mayor is his son, JV Ejercito.

"It's hard to offer anything… All of those things (city arrest, release on recognizance) have to be decided by the Sandiganbayan," he said.

He said the only thing the government could do was to check with the Philippine National Police about the viability of city arrest or ask legal luminaries about recognizance, although in the end everything would be up to the Sandiganbayan.

"All these things cannot just be whimsical. They have to be within the perspective of national interest. These things have to be cautiously undertaken," he said.

Defensor expressed confidence that despite Estrada's statements rejecting the government's offer of reconciliation, the deposed president would be willing to sit down for the sake of the national interest.

"Honestly, the government does not need to reconcile, but this is for [the] national interest… I think [former] President Estrada realizes that the ones criticizing reconciliation now were the people who were with him before, who were given budget for their districts and were later on calling for blood against him," Defensor said.

He admitted that administration ally, Ilocos Gov. Luis Singson, a former bosom buddy of Estrada who accused Estrada of receiving bribe money from illegal gambling and from the tobacco excise taxes, was also a "consideration" in the reconciliation efforts.

Dengue claims more lives

DENGUE FEVER HAS CLAIMED MORE LIVES in the country despite a nationwide alert declared by the government last month, health department records showed yesterday.

The mosquito-born viral disease has killed 70 people since Aug. 11, bringing the death toll since Jan. 1 to 259, according to the department's statistics.

The disease sickened a total of 18,802 people through Sept. 11 this year – a 26 percent increase over the same period in 2004 – the department said.

Dengue fever symptoms include high fever, joint pain, headache and vomiting. There is no cure or vaccine.

Eric Tayag, head of the department's National Epidemiology Center, said last month that the Aug. 15 alert was issued after more than 100 barangays were found to have clusters of cases.

Under the alert, local governments have been asked to intensify educational campaigns about dengue fever, organize mosquito-control systems, ensure prompt diagnosis and treatment, have enough blood supplies for transfusions and increase surveillance of cases.

Tayag said the first line of defense should be eliminating potential mosquito breeding sites, such as the pools of stagnant water that form in items like empty oil drums, flower pots and old tires.

Edna Lopez, also from the National Epidemiology Center, said that various factors could have caused the new deaths since last month.

"It could be due to the management of the hospital, or it could be because the cases were referred to doctors too late," she said. AP

Garci not in Malaysia, either

By Tina G. Santos

GARCILLANO

FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER Virgilio Garcillano is not hiding in Malaysia.

Thus reported Dato Mangsor Bin Ismael, chief of the Royal Malaysia Police, to the National Bureau of Investigation.

"We have informed all the local police stations to conduct investigation. So far, we have not been able to detect the presence of the personality," Ismael said in his Sept. 5 letter addressed to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

But Ismael assured the bureau that "we view the matter seriously and we will continue our investigation."

He added that he would immediately inform the NBI officials of any development.

The NBI sought the assistance of the Malaysian police in the hunt for Garcillano, who was reportedly sighted in different places in Malaysia, particularly in Labuan and Kota Kinabalu.

Earlier, the United States immigration authorities also told the Philippine consulate in New York City that they had no record of Garcillano entering the US, after Sen. Aquilino Pimentel claimed Garcillano was sighted in New Jersey.

He was also reported to have fled to London via Singapore.

Garcillano is believed to be the man President Macapagal-Arroyo was talking to in the "Hello Garci" tapes discussing alleged fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

The President has admitted talking to an election official, whom she did not identify but she has denied any wrongdoing.

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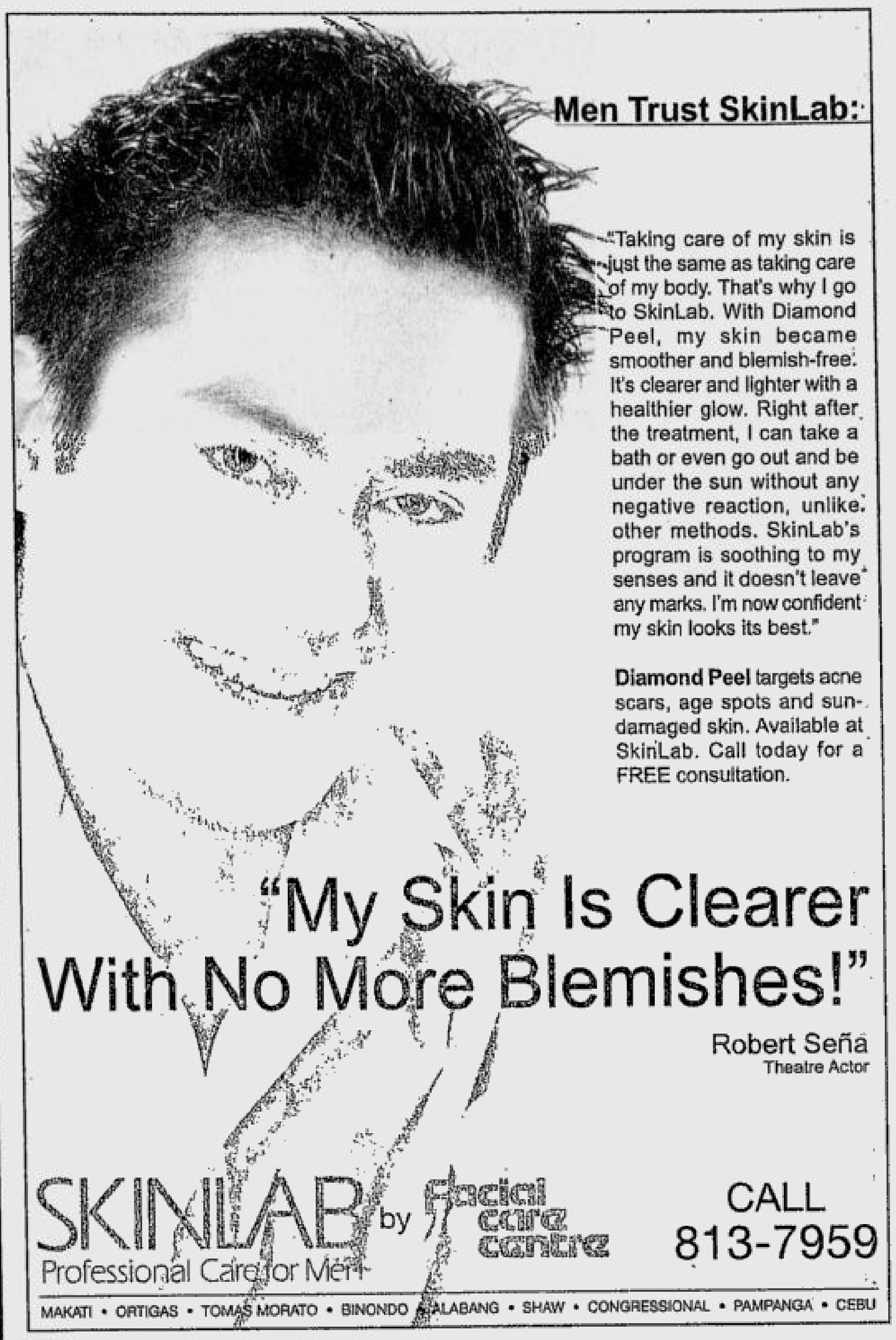
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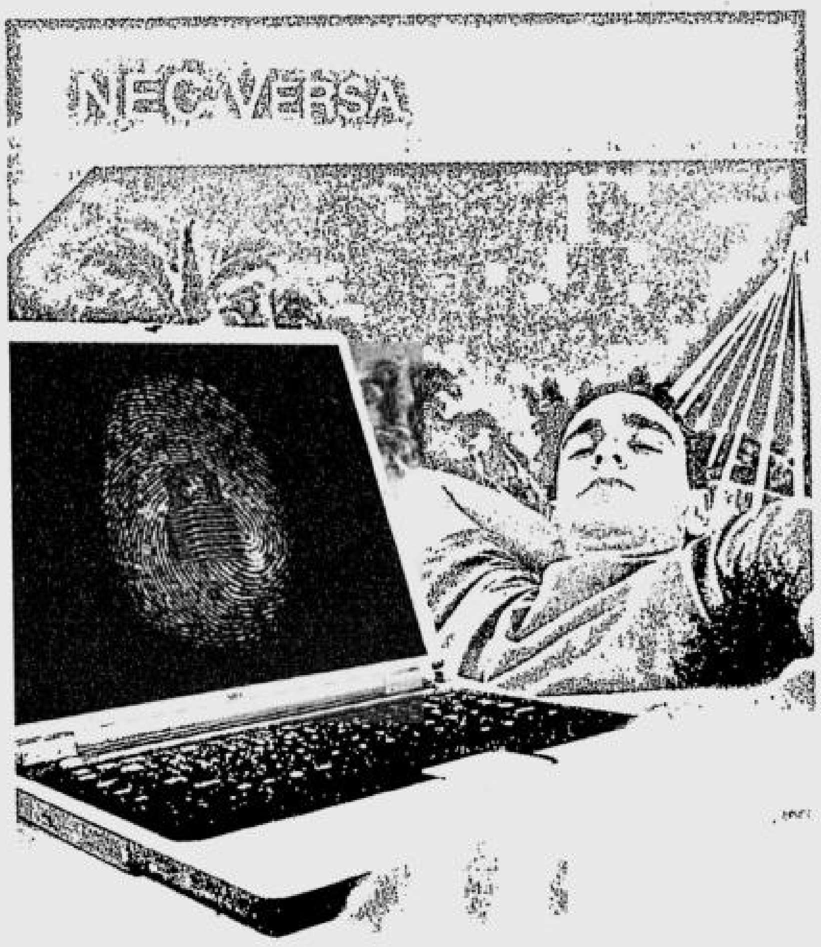

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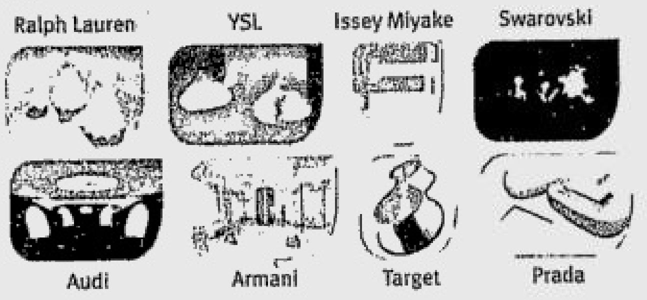

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Bid to defer VAT on power, fuel gains

By Norman Bordadora

AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY of congressmen support a proposed House joint resolution deferring the imposition of the Expanded Value Added Tax on petroleum products and electricity until June next year.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda yesterday informed the House secretary-general that some 147 congressmen have signified their intention to co-author his House joint resolution No. 12 which seeks to defer the implementation of the tax measure on oil and power.

Salceda said that aside from the 125 legislators who have signed his resolution, there are 22 others who gave a "firm commitment" to endorse his proposal.

He, however, would not say if his proposal to defer the implementation of the VAT on oil and power is as good as passed in the House.

"Put it this way. There is an overwhelming support to afford relief to the broad middle class who pays 75 percent of total taxes and consumes 96 percent of petroleum," Salceda told the INQUIRER.

A joint resolution by the House and the Senate on the matter will have the effect of law and defer the imposition of the VAT on petroleum products and electricity.

Joint resolution

"This is joint resolution with the Senate," Salceda said, adding that Sen. Mar Roxas will file the same resolution in the Senate.

Among those who signed Salceda's resolution were Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and House Deputy Speakers Raul del Mar, Gerry Salappudin and Emilio Espinosa Jr.

Salceda said majority of the chairpersons of the House committees have likewise endorsed his resolution.

"Securing the signatures was almost effortless with many voluntarily submitting their co-author slips to (my office). With the political static of the impeachment out of the way, this development indicated the strong sense and deep sentiment of the House to afford relief to consumers," Salceda said.

The resolution to defer the VAT on oil and power comes on the heels of the dismissal by 158 congressmen of the impeachment complaints filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo. Of the 125 signatories to Salceda's resolution, only three come from the ranks of the opposition, making the resolution a predominantly administration proposal.

"*Maski ngipin 'di binubunot 'pag namamaga pa* (An aching tooth is not extracted while still swollen)," Salceda said, drawing a comparison between dental surgery and the implementation of fiscal reforms while the people are suffering from steep prices.

"Fiscal reforms are like radical surgery—the body must be strong enough to undergo the procedure," Salceda said.

Salceda said that when the VAT was formulated 2004, the gross domestic product was at 6.4 percent as against the current 4.7 percent. He added that inflation at that time was at a relatively low 6.4 percent versus the current 8.4 percent.

Salceda said global oil prices at that time was just $40 a barrel compared to the current $63 a barrel.

Not practical

"It is simply not practical to impose higher taxes, especially from zero to 10 percent, on a product (whose cost) has already risen by 66 percent since the start of the year," Salceda said, referring topetroleum costs.

Salceda said there is already a vigorous clamor to lower taxes on petroleum products in Europe while governments in Asia have spent billions in subsidies to stabilize oil prices. He said Indonesia has already spent $7 billion or P392 billion in subsidy for the first six months to stabilize its oil prices.

'Pentagon' gang leader falls

THE MILITARY ON WEDNESDAY CAPTURED the alleged leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang that abducted an Italian missionary and a group of Chinese engineers in Mindanao four years ago.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said Nurham Amil, also known as "Commander Ramsey," a leader of the so-called Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group, was arrested late Tuesday at a military checkpoint in Leon Postigo town in Zamboanga del Norte.

The Pentagon gang is on Washington's list of terrorist organizations. The gang is composed of former Muslim separatist rebels who have turned to crime. It is known mainly for kidnapping Christians and foreigners and holding them for ransom in Mindanao.

Esperon said operations would continue against both the Pentagon and the Abu Sayyaf, another Muslim kidnapping gang active in Mindanao.

Amil's group kidnapped four Chinese men, including three who were helping build an irrigation project, and their Filipino guide in June 2001 in Carmen, North Cotabato. Four months later, they abducted Italian missionary Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni in Zamboanga del Sur.

Two of the Chinese were killed by the kidnappers as they tried to escape during a clash with soldiers in August 2001. Pierantoni was rescued unharmed in April 2002.

Amil, a former Muslim separatist guerrilla, carried a P500,000 award for his arrest.

Pierantoni, who is from Bologna, Italy, belonged to the Sacred Heart of Jesus missionary order.

He was seized on Oct. 18, 2001 after saying Mass in his parish in Dimataling town, Zamboanga del Sur. He was held hostage for several weeks until a ransom was paid.

Several Filipino and foreign Catholic priests have been targeted by Muslim extremists and bandits in Mindanao, home to the country's Muslim minority.

As this developed, US-trained Marine commandos raided a hideout of suspected Islamic militants on a remote southwestern island, seizing weapons and smuggled cigarettes, the military said.

"Our troops caught them by complete surprise," said Capt. Rommel Abrau, a spokesperson for the Marine Corps. "They offered token resistance before scampering away, leaving behind their heavy weapons and personal stuff."

There were no casualties on either side during the brief firefight following the raid on Tuesday, he said.

A speedboat, two machineguns, an assault rifle, a crate of ammunition and about 130 boxes of smuggled cigarettes were found in the raid on Kalingalang Kaluang island, Abrau said.

Abrau said the discovery of boxes of untaxed cigarettes was an indication Abu Sayyaf rebels could have shifted to smuggling operations to fund their activities.

"Kidnappings are down in the south, so they must be looking at other means to raise money," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf, a small radical group with links to the regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah and al-Qaida has strongholds in Mindanao.

Abu Sayyaf was known mainly for kidnappings for ransom until it planted a bomb on a ferry in February 2004 that killed 116 people, the worst terror attack in the Philippines.

The group also claimed three coordinated blasts in Manila and two Mindanao cities in February this year that killed 13 people. *AP, AFP, Reuters*

Fraport may drop suit if paid enough

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO THE Philippines yesterday said that German-based airport operator Fraport may drop its arbitration case against the Philippines if the company receives proper compensation for its investment in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

But if the compensation is too low, the German company would still pursue the case, Ambassador Axel Weishaupt told ANC television.

In a separate interview, the embassy's third secretary, Henning Hansen, said that a resolution of the Naia 3 controversy would encourage German investors to return to the Philippines.

"We cannot deny that the economic relations have been dampened despite the increase in trade exchanges last year. We are looking forward to a clearing of the way," Hansen said.

The government took control of the mothballed Naia 3 last December after the Supreme Court upheld the government's voiding of the contract of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), the consortium that built the terminal.

The SC in May 2003 upheld the government's position that "onerous provisions" in the contract had made it unacceptable.

Fraport, which owns 30 percent of Piatco, demanded compensation of $425 million for its investments in the facility and brought its case to the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Last month, the Manila Hotel Corp. announced that it had acquired Fraport's stake in the Piatco consortium for $200 million.

A top administration lawmaker yesterday urged the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman to go after public officials behind the botched Piatco deal over Terminal 3.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula, one of the three legislators who successfully asked the SC to nullify the contract, said the sale of Fraport of its stake in Piatco to the Manila Hotel should not deter the government from going after public officials responsible for the "fraudulent" contract provisions.

"The Ombudsman should run after the officials involved and they should be held responsible. This is part of the cleansing we must go through," Jaraula said. *Nikko Dizon and Philip C. Tubeza*

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 15, 2005
Our Lady of Sorrows

1st Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister Mary, who was the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw the Mother, and the disciple whom he loved, he said to the Mother, "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." And from that moment the disciple took her to his own home.

Commentary

These are the faithful ones, who stand at the end, the bitter end with their Lord and Master: there is 'his mother, his mother's sister Mary, who was the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala' and there is the beloved disciple—never named because it is supposed to be each one of us. At the ancient ritual of baptism, the one to be immersed in the waters knelt and was told: you are already saved, on your knees and under the sign of the cross. This is where we dwell, as believers, as the faithful and loving friends, brothers, sisters and mothers to our crucified and suffering servant Lord. This is Jesus' new family, birthed in his blood and water. It is the Church and the Church, the Body of Christ, all of us are to be found at the foot of the cross everywhere in the world, as silent witnesses to injustice, to pain that should never have happened and grieving for the horror and evil that we do to one another. There are four—where are we found?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE) - Exception to a final judgment - Nothing is more settled in the law than that when a final judgment becomes executory, it thereby becomes immutable and unalterable. The judgment may no longer be modified in any respect, even if the modification is meant to correct what is perceived to be an erroneous conclusion of fact or law, and regardless of whether the modification is attempted to be made by the Court rendering it or by the highest Court of the land. The only recognized exceptions are the correction of clerical errors or the making of so-called nunc pro tunc entries which cause no prejudice to any party, and, of course, where the judgment is void. As a general rule, therefore, final and executory judgments are immutable and unalterable except under the three exceptions named above: a) clerical errors; b) nunc pro tunc entries which cause no prejudice to any party; and c) void judgments. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Azcuna, First Division, Briones-Vasquez v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 144882, February 4, 2005] BY R.B. VERA

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Sept 2, HALE Album Tour, 6pm, 4th/L
Sept 3, Drum & Lyre Parade- Welcoming the Yuletide Season
Sept 4, Fire Eater Show with special guest TOLITS @ Starland, 3pm
Sept 8, Arts & Crafts Livelihood, 2nd/L, 2pm
Sept 11, Nestle Grandparents' Day Special, Trade Hall
Sept 16, Ricky Reyes Colour Awards, 1pm, 4th/L
Sept 17, CD Jeans Grand Raffle Draw w/ Nadine Samonte,
Manilyn Reynes & Kirby de Jesus, Trade Hall, 4pm
Sept 18, Yasmien Kurdi Album Tour, Trade Hall, 4pm
Sept 24, A September Spectacle Fashion Show:
Beauty & Wellness Celebration
Sept 25, Lola Make Over @ Starland 3pm
Mondays, Ladies' Night Acoustics @ Mark's Bar, 7pm
Tuesdays, Performer's Nights, 7pm, 2nd/L
Wednesdays, Gym Plus Fitness @ Metropolis Star, 2nd/L
Fridays, Gym Plus Fitness @ Metropolis Star, 2nd/L

(872-5249)
Sept 4, The Great Puppet Show
Sept 11, Grandparents' Day:
Ballroom Dancing Competition for Lolo & Lola
Sept 17, Grand Launch of My Spa Fitness Center feat.
A September Spectacle- Health and Beauty Fashion Show
Sept 18, An afternoon of Pop and Dance
Sept 18, Arts and Crafts
Sept 30, Oktoberfest Kick Off Party, 8pm, Open Parking Area
Wednesdays, Live Music at the Strip
Fridays, Acoustics at Mark's
Saturdays, Live Music at the Strip

(718-1886)
Sept 3, Gabay sa Kalusugan, Pasasalamat ni Dr. Gary Sy
Sept 4, VIVA Hotmen with VIVA Hotbabes
Sept 10, Kid's Fun Day, Neverland @ Starmall
Sept 11, Nestle Ice Cream's Lolo & Lola Day Out w/
Ballroom Dancing Contest
Sept 14, 21, 28, Harlem Solo Dance Competition
Sept 17, Bingo Mania Anniversary Celebration feat. Kyla
Sept 18, Amazing Bubble Show for kids
Sept 24, Yasmien Kurdi Album Tour
Sept 25, FASHIONISTA by Vintage Production & Club TV
Mondays, Sahaja Yoga
Thursdays, Aero Latin Dance, Function Hall D
Fridays, Latino Nights at Cuba Libre

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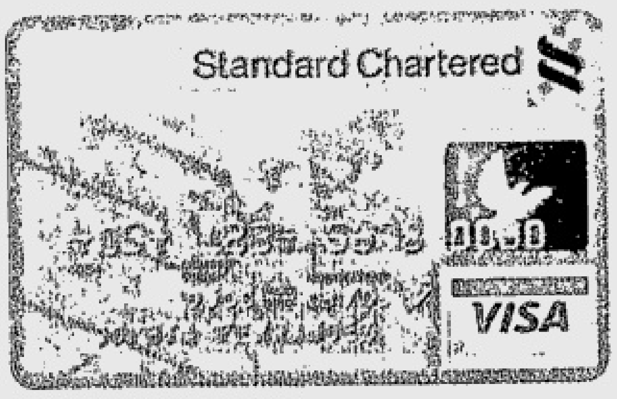

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4821, Series of 2005.

GMA administration spent P100M for US lobbyists

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRAtion spent almost P100 million for American lobbyists and public relations consultants from September 2001 to October 2003, according to four US Department of Justice reports.

An opposition source furnished the INQUIRER copies of the reports prepared by the US Attorney General. The reports were submitted to the US Congress in accordance with the US Foreign Agents Registration Act, which requires lobbyists and consultants to disclose their dealings with foreign governments.

The reports showed that the Philippine government had hired the services of Bannerman & Associates Inc., Burson-Marsteller, Crowell & Moring International Ltd., Fasturn Inc., Maria Luisa Haley (MH International), and Rhoads-Weber Shandwick Government Relations and paid them a total of $1.87 million (or P98.93 million at a peso-dollar exchange rate of 53 to 1).

The Icon Group of Bronxville, New York, was also hired for PR purposes but it reported no activities or finances, the reports showed.

The highest paid was Burson-Marsteller (a total of $1,245,828.23 or P66 million) for promoting investments and travel to the Philippines and developing a "public relations program including media relations and research," and "distributing economic materials" from November 2001 to October 2003.

Rhoads-Weber Shandwick assisted the Philippine Embassy in Washington and its defense attache in meetings with "members of legislative branch communities in regard to matters related to Asia-Pacific security issues and military cooperation."

It was paid a total of $154,056.65 (P8.2 million).

Bannerman received a total of $146,012.63 (P7.7 million) for helping contact staffers and US government officials "to discuss all facets of the bilateral relationship including defense, trade, foreign assistance, and international visits of government officials."

The Philippine Embassy, through Ariel Abadilla, paid Maria Luisa Haley $141,756.56 (P7.5 million) for arranging meetings, planning itineraries and providing forums for Filipino government officials.

Crowell & Moring was paid $90,337 (P4.79 million) for "advice on trade and economic matters and analysis on trade development in the United States" from December 2001 to May 2002.

Fasturn Inc., which helped with analysis and economic material on the US-RP textile and apparel trade, received a total of $88,579.84 (P4.69 million).

Lawmakers want Gonzales in hot seat

From page A1

contact Gonzales, who had just returned from abroad, and that the latter confirmed having signed a contract with Venable in behalf of the Philippine government.

"Sir, I will just put this in writing and I'll report to you," he quoted Gonzales as saying.

Authority

The INQUIRER has a copy of the contract signed on July 25 by Gonzales and Venable, one of America's top 100 law firms.

It stated that, among others, the lobby firm would seek US funding for support of the constitutional amendments being pushed by the Palace.

The fee is $75,000 a month for a yearlong agreement.

Ermita observed that the contract "could be for something else." But he said he was "very sure" that Gonzales had the "authority" to sign such a contract.

Asked whether it was unusual for the government to hire the services of a foreign lobby firm, Ermita said previous administrations had also done so.

He said the Arroyo administration had also sent a group—"not an American firm"—to lobby the US legislature for the payment of the back wages of Filipino war veterans, and another group in connection with the modernization of the Armed Forces.

"When you lobby, you lobby for things that would benefit the government or specific agencies of government," Ermita said.

'Made in USA'

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the contract was a "sheer waste of scarce Filipino funds."

"Knowing Bert Gonzales and his contempt for American experts, I believe he was forced to do it by his boss," Golez said. "Malacañang apparently needed a 'Made in USA' deodorizer to remove the stink from the Cha-cha initiative."

Javier said he wanted Gonzales to explain why the government needed to hire a foreign firm to seek funding to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"These issues must be clarified as soon as possible to ease doubts over government efforts to pursue Charter change. We in the House have been supportive of Charter amendments for so long now," he said.

Nograles said that while he supported a clarification on the matter, he believed that the issue "would not in any way affect" the House initiatives to start the process of amendment.

He said hiring a private US consultancy firm was "not meddling per se" in the Philippines' internal affairs.

'Very bad'

But constitutional expert Jose Abueva expressed disbelief that Gonzales would sign such a contract.

"It's absolutely very bad. It's foolish to get foreign funding for political reforms. No foreign government should [be involved in moves for Charter change]," Abueva told the INQUIRER.

Abueva said the consultative assembly did not need funding from the United States to do its task of studying the Constitution and determining the amendments needed to make it more effective.

"The President has already authorized P10 million for our work, and that's more than what [the consultative assembly needs]," he said.

Earlier, Malacañang announced that it had decided on the appointment of the first half of the membership of the consultative assembly.

It is supposedly waiting for President Macapagal-Arroyo to return from the United States for her to announce the members' names.

In a news conference where she announced the formation of the consultative assembly, Ms Arroyo mentioned Abueva when she was pressed for the names of those who would form part of the assembly.

In the dark

In New York, Speaker Jose de Venecia on Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila) confirmed that Malacañang was seeking US funding for Charter change to shift the presidential system of government to a parliamentary-federal type.

De Venecia, the main proponent of the renewed move to abolish Congress to pave the way for a unicameral parliament, made the admission after speaking with Gonzales by phone in Manila.

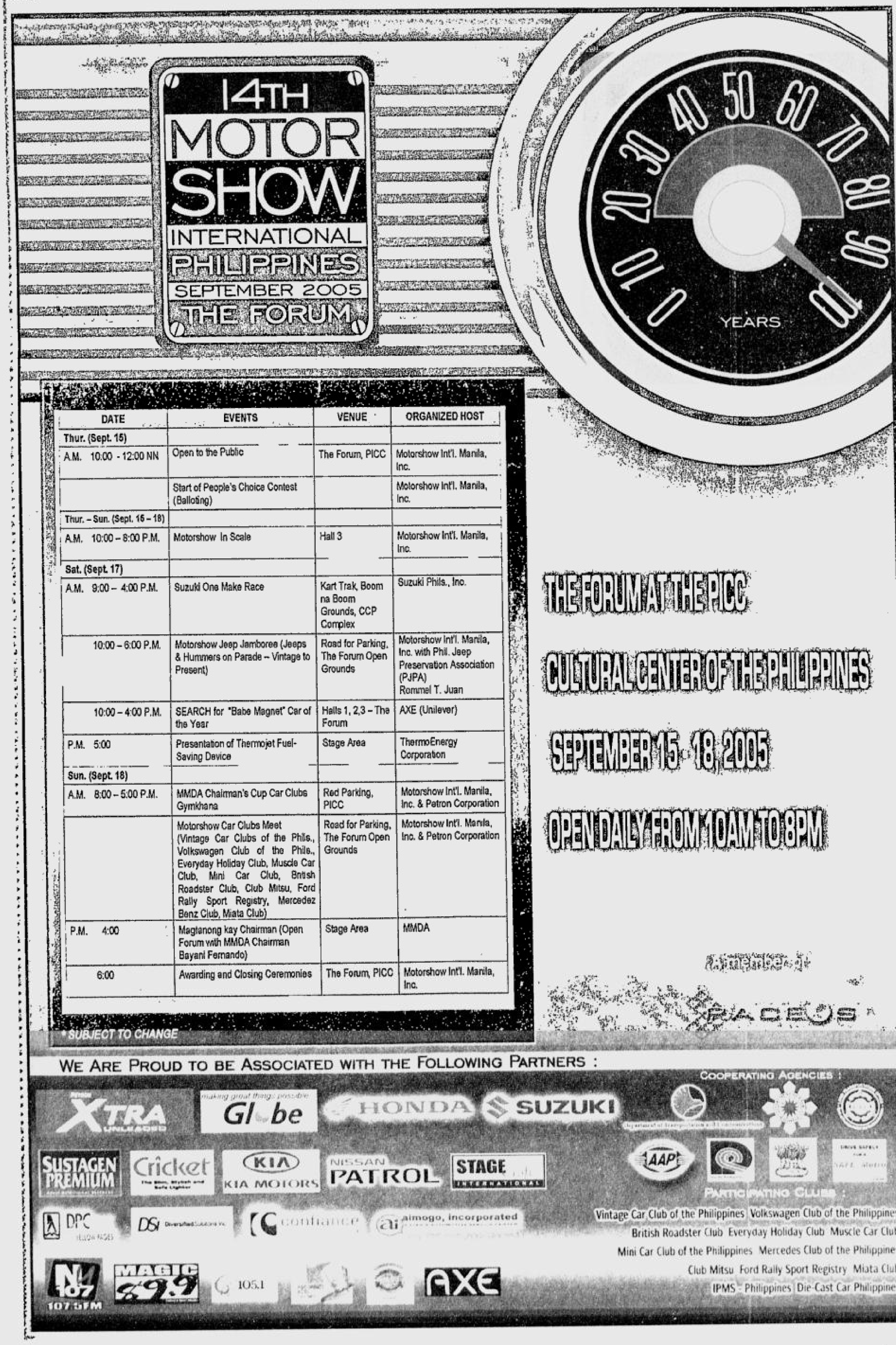
The Speaker was apparently kept in the dark about the contract.

Before his conversation with Gonzales, De Venecia expressed doubt that such a contract would be necessary.

"I don't know if [reports on the contract are] true. I will be the first one to know," he told the INQUIRER. *With reports from Norman Bordadora in Manila; Michael Lim Ubac in New York*

GONZALES: Explanation forthcoming

ERMITA: Contract confirmed



DATE	EVENTS	VENUE	ORGANIZED HOST
Thur. (Sept. 15)			
A.M. 10:00 - 12:00 NN	Open to the Public	The Forum, PICC	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.
	Start of People's Choice Contest (Balloting)		Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.
Thur. – Sun. (Sept. 16 – 18)			
A.M. 10:00 – 8:00 P.M.	Motorshow In Scale	Hall 3	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.
Sat. (Sept. 17)			
A.M. 9:00 – 4:00 P.M.	Suzuki One Make Race	Kart Trak, Boom na Boom Grounds, CCP Complex	Suzuki Phils., Inc.
10:00 – 6:00 P.M.	Motorshow Jeep Jamboree (Jeeps & Hummers on Parade – Vintage to Present)	Road for Parking, The Forum Open Grounds	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc. with Phil. Jeep Preservation Association (PJPA) Rommel T. Juan
10:00 – 4:00 P.M.	SEARCH for "Babe Magnet" Car of the Year	Halls 1, 2,3 – The Forum	AXE (Unilever)
P.M. 5:00	Presentation of Thermojet Fuel-Saving Device	Stage Area	ThermoEnergy Corporation
Sun. (Sept. 18)			
A.M. 8:00 – 5:00 P.M.	MMDA Chairman's Cup Car Clubs Gymkhana	Red Parking, PICC	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc. & Petron Corporation
	Motorshow Car Clubs Meet (Vintage Car Clubs of the Phils., Volkswagen Club of the Phils., Everyday Holiday Club, Muscle Car Club, Mini Car Club, British Roadster Club, Club Mitsu, Ford Rally Sport Registry, Mercedez Benz Club, Miata Club)	Road for Parking, The Forum Open Grounds	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc. & Petron Corporation
P.M. 4:00	Magtanong kay Chairman (Open Forum with MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando)	Stage Area	MMDA
6:00	Awarding and Closing Ceremonies	The Forum, PICC	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.

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Per DTI NCR Permit # AI 827, Series of 2005

PHILIPPINE President Macapagal-Arroyo poses with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and UN Secretary General Kofi Anan at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on Wednesday. EDWIN BACASMAS

'I arrived here in New York with the wind at my back'

From page A1

turnaround plan."

"The impeachment drive against me was defeated, and most of the people don't want to disrupt the country by mass action. As such, I believe demonstrations will remain manageable, so the impeachment failure should put an end to the biggest political hurdle," she said.

'Soft political position'

Ms Arroyo also said her rock-bottom popularity rating was the price she had to pay for undertaking tough economic reforms, such as the imposition of new taxes.

For her "soft political position," she put the blame squarely on "a licentious media, high oil prices and a relentless opposition."

But she told her audience that the Philippines was poised to turn the corner: "Let me tell you about what I can and will achieve in the months and years ahead.

"I have strong support in Congress, and local government support is rock-solid. I believe this will translate into working with allies in Congress to pass legislation to implement Phase II of my economic reforms and working with local governments to ensure that these investments in services and infrastructure are implemented at the grassroots level."

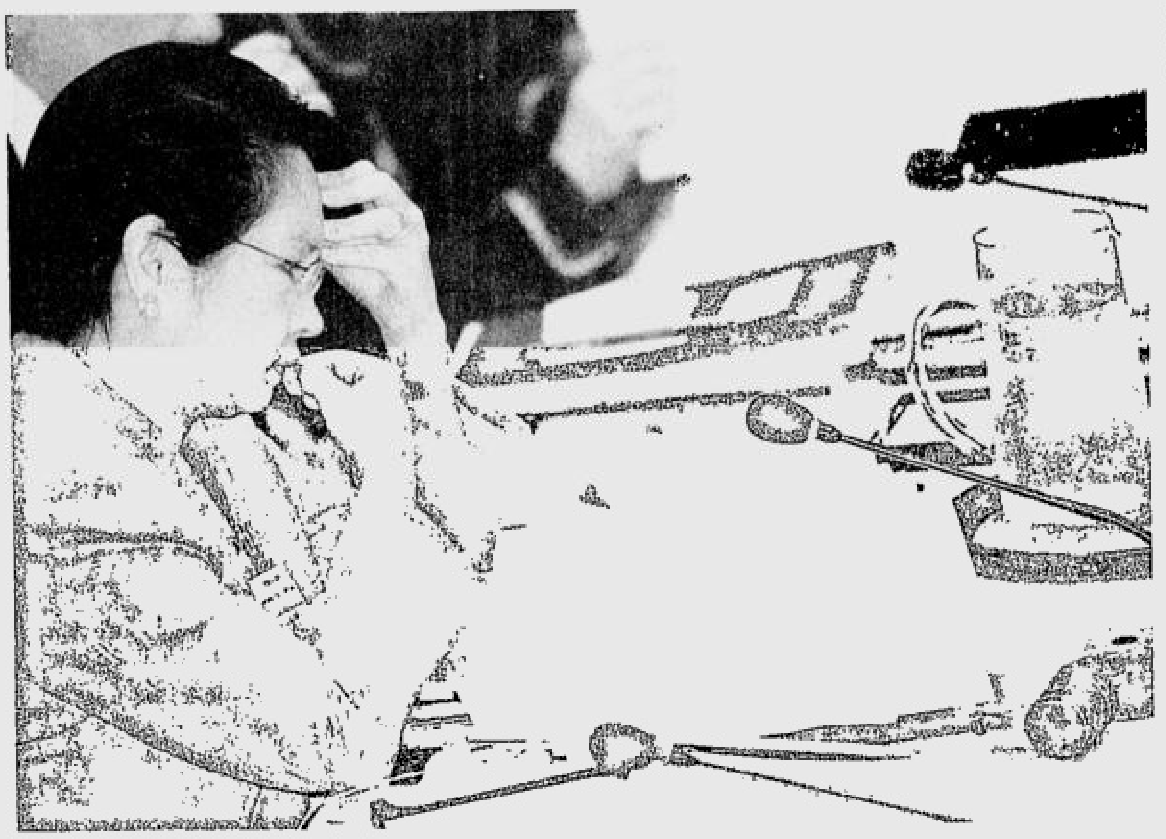
It was only two months ago that the Arroyo presidency came close to crumbling with resignation calls aired by her once trusted Cabinet officials, former President Corazon Aquino, Senate President Franklin Drilon and a faction of the Liberal Party, and a group of influential businessmen.

Ms Arroyo managed to avoid ouster with the timely support of former President Fidel Ramos and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' backing of her suggestion that allegations of election cheating and "jueteng" payoffs be brought to Congress through the impeachment process.

But the opposition, as well as the CBCP, has said that the defeat of the impeachment case did not bring closure to the issue, and that the search for the truth should continue.

Collective action

In a statement during the Second Asean-UN Summit at the UN Building, Ms Arroyo called on the 10 Asean countries and their trade partners China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to take "collective action" in cushioning the impact of surging oil prices by shifting to indigenous fuel sources and allowing oil exploration in the disputed Spratly Islands.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo pores over some papers at the United Nations Wednesday. EDWIN BACASMAS

"Oil prices are inflicting grievous economic damage to the poorest states and the heavily indebted middle-income countries. What could be worse is that high oil prices seem here to stay because they are not the product of any temporary political crisis but of fast rising global demand," she said.

For Asean, Ms Arroyo suggested the collective development of large-scale native energy resources such as ethanol (from sugar produced in the region) and diesel oil (from coconut produced in the Philippines and Indonesia).

She also endorsed a proposal by Speaker Jose de Venecia to step up oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, particularly the Spratlys.

"Vietnam, the Philippines and China have agreed to undertake cooperatively seismic operations in the areas of the South China Sea. East Asian leaders can resolve to extend this cooperative model to areas of the China Sea claimed competitively by China and Japan, by Japan and South Korea, and by Malaysia and Brunei," Ms Arroyo said.

The Asean members signed a joint communiqué expressing concern over rising oil prices and the need for the United Nations to find ways and to beef up efforts on more efficient use of energy, energy security (stockpiling), and alternative energy (including renewable energy such as hydropower and bioenergy).

Religion and politics

At the informal meeting of leaders in the Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, over which she presided, Ms Arroyo expressed agreement with the view propounded by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra—"Religion should not go beyond politics."

"I agree with you," she said after Thaksin had delivered his speech at the meeting attended by leaders and top representatives of 14 countries, including one from the Holy See.

Similar to Ms Arroyo's frayed ties with the Catholic Church, Thaksin has been the subject of political sermons by Buddhist monks in Thailand who actively campaigned against him in the February election that he won by a landslide.

Thaksin has denied banning monks from making political references in their sermons, but he has challenged them to join a political party to continue their attacks on his government.

Ms Arroyo's agreement with Thaksin's view on religion was seen as an indirect swipe at the influential Catholic bishops, some of whom have called for the President's resignation.

Ms Arroyo said the signing of a pact for greater cooperation on interfaith dialogue would lead to the resolution of conflict and the promotion of peace.

"I propose that we give our declaration the widest publicity possible in our respective countries and throughout the planet," she said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac in New York*

'Dubya' tells Gloria Fil-Am cook 'fantastic'

From page A1

General Assembly on Tuesday.

Bush asked Ms Arroyo if she had heard about Cristeta Comerford, who had been an assistant chef at the White House for 10 years and was chosen last month from hundreds of applicants to head the executive kitchen.

"Yes, we celebrated that because she's the most famous" Filipino chef, Ms Arroyo replied as the two leaders walked together, not knowing that their conversation was being picked up by UN microphones.

"She's fantastic!" Bush said of Comerford, who is a naturalized American.

Bush ran into Ms Arroyo after a nearly hourlong meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan which focused on global issues ranging from Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan's conflict-wracked Darfur region and African peacekeeping missions.

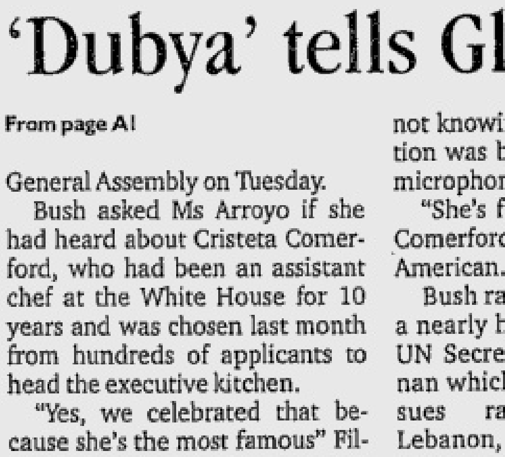
The US and Philippine leaders are here for the opening of a UN summit on Wednesday.

When Bush arrived at UN headquarters with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, he greeted Annan with a friendly gesture, putting his arm around the secretary general's back. Annan then kissed Rice three times on the cheek.

"It was a very friendly meeting," Annan later told reporters at a press conference which focused on the last-minute agreement by member states on a document to be approved by world leaders at the three-day summit which starts Wednesday.

Annan added that the new US ambassador, John Bolton, had been "very constructive" during the lengthy negotiations.

During their meeting, Bush expressed his support for the United Nations, according to a statement from the UN spokesperson. *AP*



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Pinay slay suspect's moves caught on video

From page A1

Wednesday.

Her severed head, arms and legs were discovered in red plastic bags stuffed in a sports bag at Orchard MRT station at 1:45 p.m. last Friday. Her torso—dressed in printed undergarments—was found in a trolley bag on a MacRitchie Reservoir footpath at about 6:10 p.m. that day.

Aguilar was arrested at about 12:40 a.m. on Saturday, less than 12 hours after La Puebla's body parts were found.

The case will be heard again on Friday.

Lawyer Manoj Nandwani has been appointed by the Philippine Embassy to represent Aguilar, while legal counsel Ranvir Kumar Singh is holding a watching brief of the case for the embassy.

Strong circumstantial evidence

In Manila, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said there could be a strong "circumstantial evidence" to link Aguilar to the slaying.

"I understand that the train station camera was able to take (video footage of Aguilar) with that [illegible]" [illegible] said.

Citing a Department of Foreign Affairs report from Singapore, Gonzalez said that Aguilar's fingerprints were found in the bag. He said samples of cellophane plastic used to wrap La Puebla's body parts were found in Aguilar's quarters.

"Everything looks circumstantial ... these are the initial findings given to the DFA ... but still we have to defend her, the same way we are going to give support to the family of the victim," Gonzalez said.

"She's a Filipino citizen and we don't want a repeat of the Contemplacion furor," Gonzalez said, citing the execution of Filipino maid Flor Contemplacion for the killing of compatriot Delia Magat and the latter's 4-year-old Singaporean ward.

Contemplacion's execution in 1995 triggered a bitter diplomatic row between Manila and Singapore and widespread protests by Filipinos.

"Whether she's guilty or not, she's entitled to our defense," Gonzalez said of Aguilar.

Love triangle ruled out

He also brushed aside speculation that Aguilar and La Puebla were fighting over a Singaporean taxi driver.

"The same information given us also says that it's not really a love triangle, but money," he said. He mentioned "five-six"—a term used to described to the practice of lending money at high interests.

Gonzalez, however, said that the report did not show who was the borrower.

Also in Manila, Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes yesterday said that the government would provide stress counseling to the families of Aguilar and La Puebla.

The counseling is among the "support measures" for the families, as well as for Aguilar, that have been identified by a team from the Department of Labor and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA).

The DFA and OWWA will also make representations with the employers of Aguilar and La Puebla so that the salaries and benefits due them under their employment contracts and Singaporean law may be paid and turned over to the families, DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said.

Aguilar's rights respected

Asuque said that the Philippine Embassy's lawyer will be able to meet with Aguilar tomorrow, when the police investigators' report will be heard during the court hearing scheduled at 8:45 a.m.

He said Aguilar's rights were being respected in Singapore.

"I think both the Philippines and Singapore recognize the universal right of the accused to counsel and the presumption of innocence," he said.

"The embassy will continue to monitor this case, the purpose of which is to ensure that the rights of Aguilar is respected and recognized."

Asuque said Aguilar's husband, Edwin, will leave for Singapore today to attend tomorrow's hearing. *With reports from Straits Times/Asia News Network; Armand Nocum, Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning; Vincent Cabreza and Leoncio Balbin of PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

OFWs warned against travelling with pirated CDs

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPloyment yesterday warned overseas Filipino workers against bringing pirated compact discs and digital video discs (DVD) to avoid arrests and other consequences detrimental to their employment and welfare abroad.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas issued the warning after a male OFW was arrested by the police upon his arrival at the Dammam Airport in the Saudi Arabia last month for carrying 32 pieces of fake or pirated CDs.

Citing a report from Welfare Officer Danilo Flores of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Riyadh, Sto. Tomas said the OFW left the country on Aug. 23 to work as a secretary for a certain Mustabah Al Haider Ramjen in Rahimah, Rastanura. He was deployed by FVJ Manpower International Inc.

The OFW, whose name was withheld to protect his welfare and future employment overseas was quickly arrested by the Saudi police upon his arrival at the Dammam when they found the fake CDs in his possession.

The worker is now detained at the Dammam Airport Jail.

"The POLO and the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh together with the employer are negotiating with the Saudi authorities for his release," Sto. Tomas said.

Flores reported that the POLO in Riyadh learned about the arrest of the OFW through another OFW, one Ronaldo Pineda who works as an X-ray technician at the Dammam Airport.

According to Pineda, the arrested OFW signed a confession indicating that he intended to sell the fake CDs in the Kingdom.

The Saudi police, on the other hand, fined the suspect 16,000 rials(P240,000.00) as penalty for the confiscated illegal CDs. His employer, however, could only afford to pay 3,000 rials per his commitment to Flores.

It was also reported that the OFW suffered a mild heart attack while in jail.

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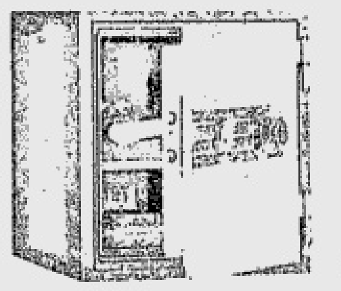

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(PM)	Developments in Family Law (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Judge Nimfa Cuesta Vilches *Regional Trial Court, Manila*
20 September (AM)	Updates in Administrative Law and Procedure (*Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Salvador T. Carlota *U.P. College of Law*
(PM)	Pre Trial and Trial Skills (*Pre-Trial Skills*)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin *Court of Appeals*
21 September (AM)	Salient Features of Agrarian Reform Laws (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Atty. Hector D. Soliman *Former USEC, DAR*
(PM)	a) GATT and GATS (*International Law*) b) Mediation Proceedings and the Role of Lawyers (*ADR*)	a) Two (2) (1:00-3:00) b) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	a) Prof. Harry L. Roque *U.P. College of Law* b) Chairman Alfredo F. Tadiar *ADR Dept., PHILJA*
22 September (AM)	Update in Criminal Procedure (*Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Pros. Gregorio A. Arizala *Provincial Prosecutor, Rizal*
(PM)	a) ADR Applications in Commercial Disputes (*ADR*) b) Modes of Discovery (*Procedural Law*)	a)Two(2) (1:00-3:00) b)Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade *PHPE Law Offices* Justice Oscar M. Herrera (Ret.) *Court of Appeals*
23 September (AM)	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr. *Court of Appeals*
(PM)	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy (*Legal Writing*)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Hon. Zenaida N. Elepano *Senior DCA, Supreme Court*

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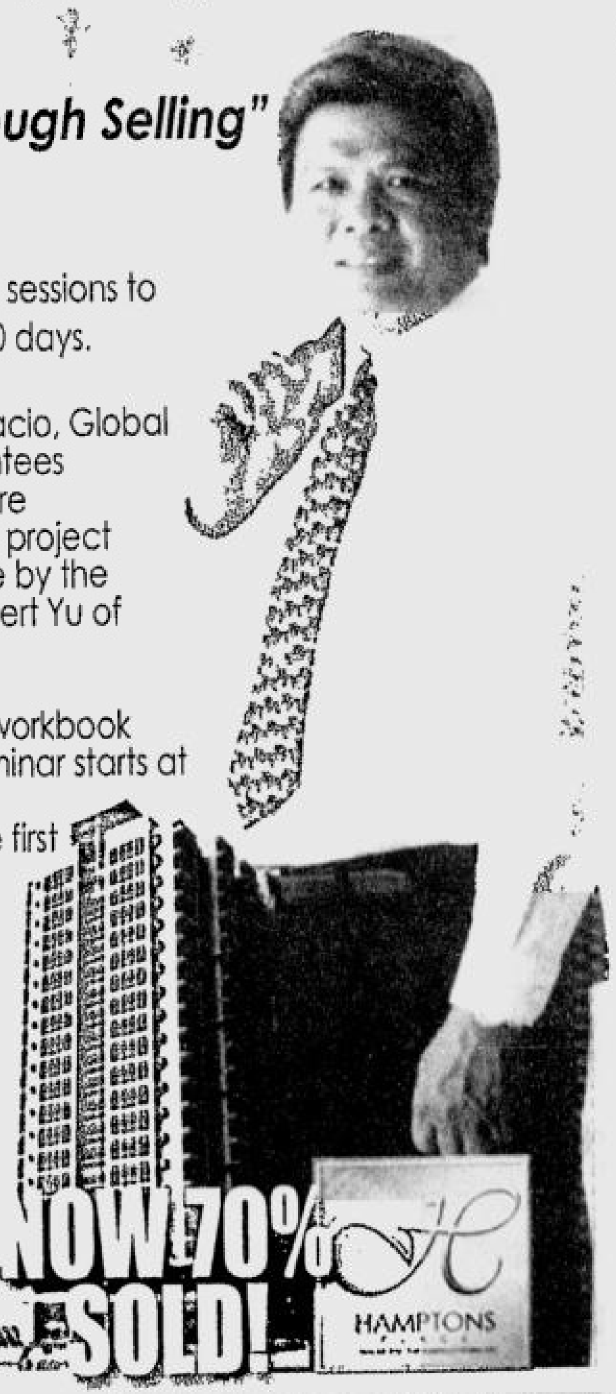

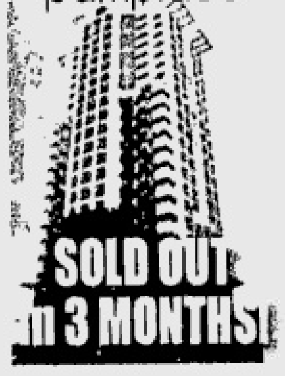

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Over 150 killed in Baghdad blasts

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber lured a crowd of Shiite day laborers to his minivan and blew it up in Baghdad on Wednesday, killing 114 people and wounding more than 156 in Iraq's second deadliest bombing since the war began.

The bomber drew the men to his vehicle with promises of work before detonating the bomb, which contained up to 220 kg of explosives, an Interior Ministry source said.

"There's no political party here, there are no police," Mohammed Jabbar railed at the blast site in the Shiite Muslim Khadhimiya area. "This targeted civilians, innocents. Why women and children?" he added, as bystanders shouted, "Why? Why?"

Another car bomber blew himself up in northern Baghdad, killing 11 people lined up to refill gas canisters, as a wave of bombings rocked the capital. Gunmen also dragged 17 people from their homes and killed them in Taji, a northern suburb.

More than 150 people were killed in all the attacks, which a police official said seemed to have been carefully orchestrated.

Iraq's al-Qaida claimed it was waging a nationwide suicide bombing campaign to avenge a military offensive on a rebel town.

A statement on an Islamist website often used by the Sunni Muslim militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi did not mention a specific attack, but said the campaign was in reprisal for a US-Iraqi offensive in the northern town of Tal Afar.

"We would like to congratulate the Muslim nation and inform it the battle to avenge the Sunnis of Tal Afar has begun," it said.

Fears of civil war have grown ahead of an Oct. 15 referendum on a new constitution for Iraq.

Iraqi government officials have accused Sunni militants of attacking majority Shiites, who swept to power in January polls boycotted by most Sunnis, in a bid to spark a civil war. Most of the victims of Wednesday's attacks were Shiites.

"We gathered and suddenly a car blew up and turned the area into fire and dust and darkness," said Hadi, one of the workers who survived the attack, which happened shortly after sunrise.

Bodies lay in the street beside burned-out cars, witnesses said. Some used wooden carts to haul away the dead.

Police said 114 people were killed and 156 wounded in the explosion. It was the deadliest attack since July, when 98 people were killed in a blast south of the capital.

The most lethal bombing since the US-led invasion of 2003 was a suicide car bomb attack on Feb. 28 this year, which killed 125 people in Hilla, south of Baghdad.

Earlier this month more than 1,000 people died in Khadhimiya in a stampede on a bridge, triggered by fears of a bomber in a crowd during a Shiite religious ceremony.

At the nearby Kadhimiya hospital, overflowing with victims, dozens of the wounded screamed in agony as they were treated on the floor, some lying in pools of their own blood.

One man had severe burns to his arms and legs, and another victim, shivering uncontrollably, lay bleeding unattended.

Another blast echoed over central Baghdad about two hours after the first. Two more car bombs exploded soon afterwards.

Police said five people were killed and 24 wounded in one of the blasts, near a Shiite cleric's offices. Three policemen and three civilians were killed in an attack on a police convoy.

A US patrol also came under attack. A Reuters cameraman saw a Humvee military vehicle burnt out by a roadside bomb.

There was no word on any US casualties. Minutes later another bomb nearby wounded two Iraqi policemen in a convoy.

The gunmen in Taji had rounded up their victims in the middle of the night. All were shot in the head, and all were Shiite relatives from the same tribe, police said.

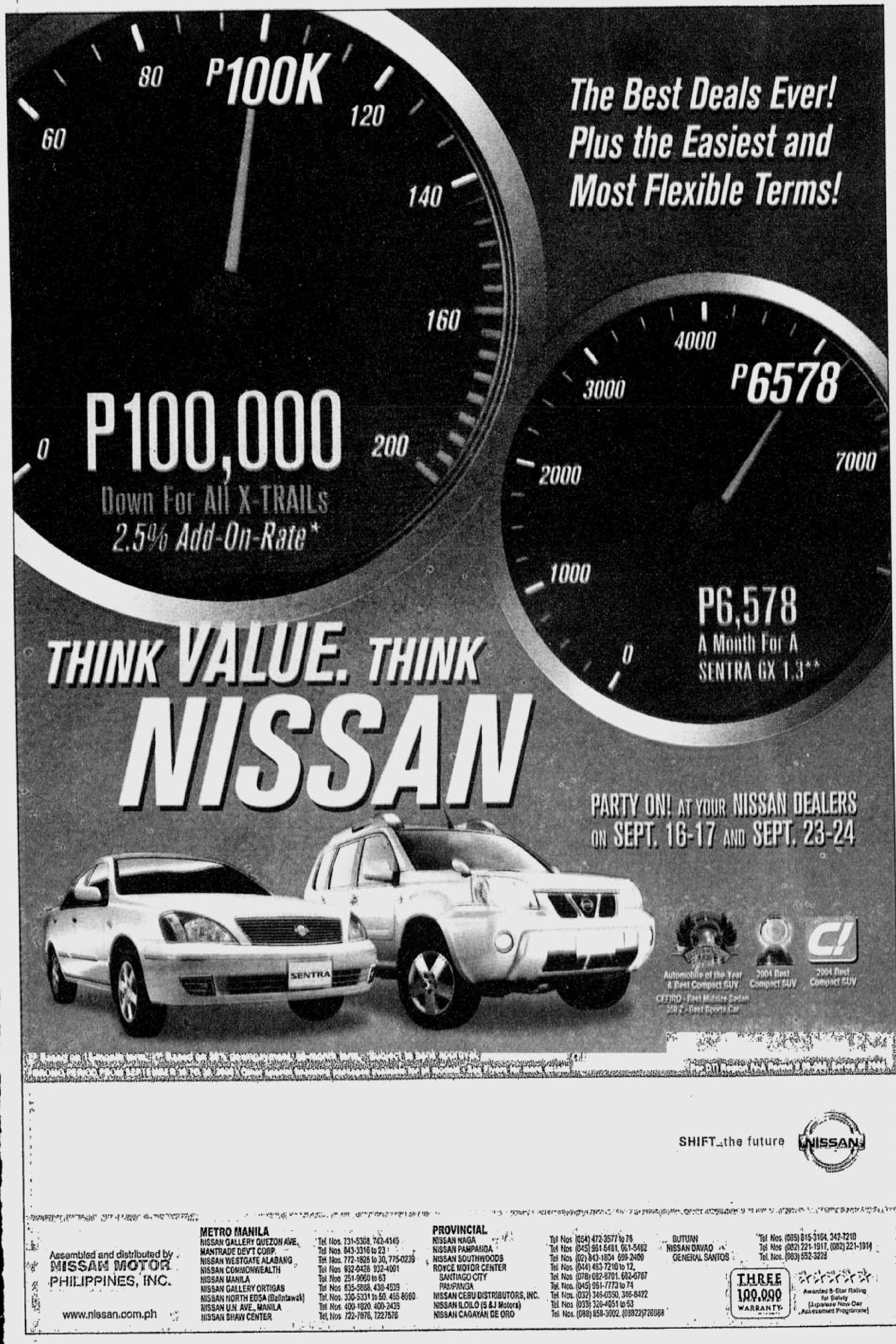
The run-up to the Oct. 15 vote has worsened tensions between Iraq's main communities, Shiites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds.

Sunnis, who comprise 20 percent of the population, dominated Iraqi politics for decades and resent their loss of influence since Saddam Hussein was toppled by US forces in April 2003.

They fear the constitution will institutionalize their reduced role, by granting autonomy to southern Shiites in line with that enjoyed by Kurds in the north, and by decentralizing control of oil revenues.

Iraq's parliament sent a "final draft" of the text to the United Nations on Wednesday, after making minor amendments designed to appease Sunni concerns. *Reuters*

A LOCAL resident views the damage at th Sept. 14. A suicide bomber killed over 114 in a crowded Shiite district of Baghdad on explosives-packed minibus in Kadhimiya,



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UN Assembly ap weakened sum

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN GENeral Assembly approved a watered-down declaration on development, human rights, terrorism and global security on Tuesday for adoption at the world body's 60th anniversary summit.

The meeting of world leaders is intended to revitalize the United Nations for the fight against poverty and environmental destruction, and make the sprawling organization more effective in tackling the 21st century threats of terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

But negotiators failed to agree on how to tackle nuclear proliferation or on a definition of terrorism sought by Western nations, and they fell short of commitments to greater aid and tearing down trade barriers that developing nations wanted.

"All of us would have wanted more, but we can work with what we have been given ... It is an important step forward," Secretary-General Kofi Annan told a news conference.

He reserved his sharpest criticism for the failure to agree on a common approac proliferation and saying: "This is a r

The three-day Wednesday, will largest in history kings, presidents ters convergin ters.

It comes at a world body and i eral have been highly critical rep the UN-run oil-for Iraq.

The incoming General Assembly Sweden, said showed the Unit advance only as member states we

"Still I would c ambitious reform sents a major step United Nations," news conference.

Fresh initiative tablishment of a n body, a Peacebuild to help nations em and perhaps most obligation to inter

Bush takes blame for Katrina snafu

WASHINGTON—TWO WEEKS AFTER HURRICANE Katrina battered the US Gulf Coast, President George W. Bush took responsibility for the first time Tuesday for the widely criticized government response to the killer storm.

"Katrina exposed serious problems in our response capability at all levels of government. And to the extent that the federal government didn't fully do its job right I take responsibility," he told reporters.

Facing his worst poll numbers ever and growing skepticism about his crisis management skills, Bush was to give what aides called a major speech to the nation from battered Louisiana on Thursday to address charges he mishandled Katrina.

He was to lay out his administration's role in the recovery operation as well as the longer-term efforts to rebuild after the hurricane left New Orleans flooded and flattened other parts of Louisiana, as well as areas of Alabama and Mississippi, said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan.

In a joint public appearance here with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, Bush said he was worried about what Katrina revealed about the US ability to respond to another natural disaster or a terrorist attack.

"I want to know what went right and what went wrong. I want to know how to better cooperate with state and local government, to be able to answer that very question that you asked: Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack or another severe storm?" he told reporters.

Bush's comments came after fierce attacks on his administration's response as sluggish and inept, as well as criticisms of his personal leadership after the massive storm ravaged the US Gulf Coast.

Bush built his successful reelection campaign last year on promises that he was better suited to keep Americans safe from catastrophes, such as another attack like the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist strikes.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Gov. Kathleen Blanco angrily accused the federal government of not moving fast enough to recover bodies of Hurricane Katrina's victims, and said the state would hire the private contractor doing the work to keep the job going. *AFP*

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e scene of a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad
people, most of them laborers looking for day jobs,
Wednesday. The suicide bomber blew up an
n Baghdad's old town. REUTERS

FAA warned about al-Qaida threat in 1998

WASHINGTON—AMERICAN AVIATION officials were warned as early as 1998 that al-Qaida could "seek to hijack a commercial jet and slam it into a US landmark," according to previously secret portions of a report prepared last year by the Sept. 11 commission.

The officials also realized months before the Sept. 11 attacks that two of the three airports ultimately used in the hijackings had suffered repeated security lapses.

Federal Aviation Administration officials were also warned in 2001 in a report prepared for the agency that airport screeners' ability to detect possible weapons had "declined significantly" in recent years, but little was done to remedy the problem, the Sept. 11 commission found.

The White House and many members of the commission, which has completed its official work, have been battling for more than a year over the release of the commission's report on aviation failures, which was completed in August 2004.

A heavily redacted version was released by the Bush administration in January, but commission members complained that the deleted material contained information critical to the public's understanding of what went wrong on Sept. 11. In response, the administration prepared a new public version of the report.

While the new version still blacks out numerous references to particular shortcomings in aviation security, it restores several dozen other portions previously considered too secret for public release. *New York Times*

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The commitment to dismantle trade barriers was weaker than poor nations would have liked, while the West failed to secure the criteria it wanted for a new human rights council as well as detailed decisions on UN management reforms.

European Union External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said the proposed Human Rights Council was "a simple name-change" rather than a root-and-branch reform of the widely criticized UN Human Rights Commission, which includes countries such as Zimbabwe, Sudan and Cuba.

She also lamented the lack of progress towards building a more powerful UN environmental organization.

The document condemns terrorism "in all its forms" but at the insistence of Islamic countries, negotiators deleted wording describing the targeting of civilians as "unjustified" in exchange for dropping a reference to national liberation struggles, such as that of the Palestinians. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Fuel protests in Britain

LONDON—Britain was braced for the start of a three-day protest against high fuel prices on Wednesday, with the government and police vowing to keep supplies moving if demonstrators try to block them. Police chiefs said they would not allow protesters to obstruct roads leading to oil refineries—a tactic which brought Britain to a standstill during similar protests in 2000. Drivers queued for fuel at some filling stations on Tuesday as fears grew that oil supplies might be disrupted, although retailers said there were no problems yet and urged customers not to panic. Protesters want the government to lower fuel prices by cutting taxes. *Reuters*

Korean nuclear talks

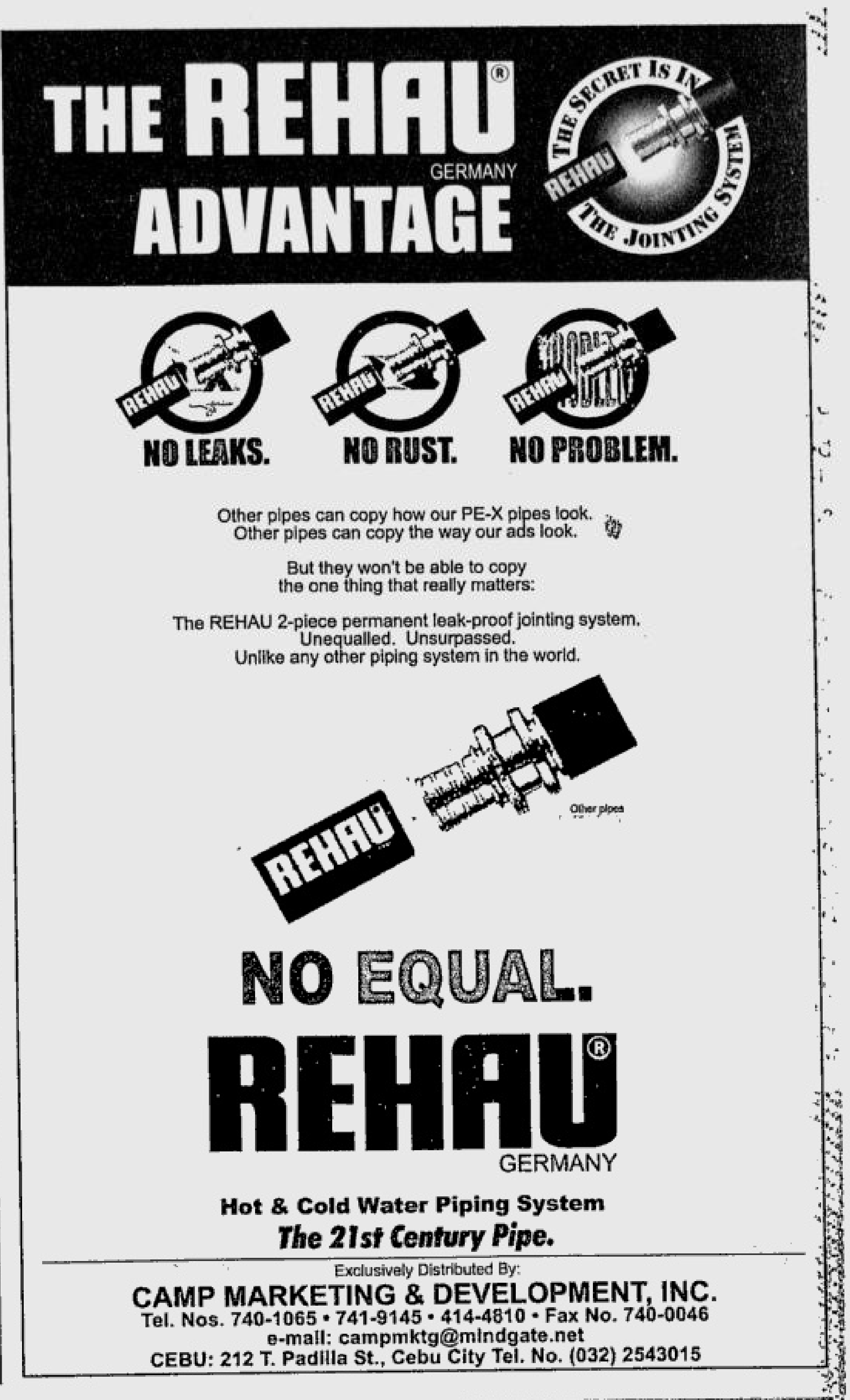
BEIJING—North Korea vowed Tuesday to keep pushing for the right to peaceful atomic energy, putting it on a collision course with the United States as six-way talks on its nuclear weapons drive resumed. Repeating the demand that broke up the talks five weeks ago, the Stalinist state said it would not bow on the issue to Washington, which rejects nuclear reactors for Pyongyang. The off-and-on bargaining is aimed at persuading the North, which expelled international monitors and now says it has nuclear weapons, to give up the bomb in exchange for security guarantees as well as energy and economic aid. *AFP*

US troops departure

WASHINGTON—Iraq hopes to be able to replace some US troops deployed there by the end of next year, the country's leader said Tuesday after talks at the White House with President George W. Bush. "We hope that by the end of 2006, our security forces are up to the level of taking responsibility from many American troops, with complete agreement with Americans," President Jalal Talabani told a press conference. Talabani had said in an in interview with the Washington Post published Tuesday that up to 50,000 US troops could be withdrawn this year, but the Iraqi leader insisted at the press conference there could be no fixed timetable. *AFP*

London bomb suspect

ROME—Italy's highest appeals court on Tuesday granted Britain's request to extradite London bombing suspect Hamdi Issac, a lawyer acting for the British government said. "The Court of Cassation has rejected the appeal of Hamdi Issac," the lawyer, Paolo Ionio, told reporters outside the court hearing. "He will be extradited within 10 days. We have won again." A Rome court last month ordered Issac to be extradited to Britain. Issac is accused of trying to blow up a London Underground train at Shepherd's Bush station in west London, one of four failed attacks on July 21 that were a near copy of July 7 suicide bombings which killed 56 people. *AFP*



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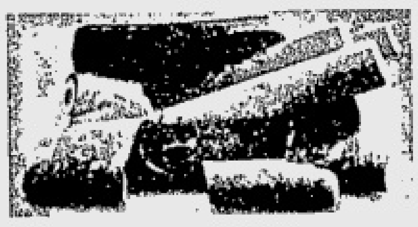

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OPINION

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Great achievers

EDITORIAL

THE DEATH LAST TUESDAY OF HAYDEE YORAC, lawyer, activist, educator and public servant—a cause for national mourning—comes at a time when the women of our country are commemorating the centenary of the Feminist Movement, and the 68th anniversary of the formal promulgation of women's suffrage in the Philippines.

It was in 1905 when La Asociacion Feminista Filipina was founded, with very specific objectives: prison reform, particularly on behalf of women and minors; visits to factories and shops employing women and minors, in order to recommend labor reforms; educational reforms; anti-vice drives mainly aimed against prostitution, gambling and drinking; religious-oriented campaigns in schools; and establishing healthy recreation facilities for families. Accompanying their efforts were the creation of organizations, such as the Gota de Leche, to promote scientific nutrition and natal care. The many women's clubs we know today began to be formed at around the same time.

Women's groups were at the forefront of the campaign to secure the right to vote for women that began in earnest in 1918, with bills filed in the Philippine legislature. (During the hearings, Concepcion Felix Rodriguez, Pura Villanueva Kalaw, Rosa Sevilla Alvero, Rosario Lam, Encarnacion Alzona and Natividad Almeda Lopez—all names honored today by Philippine women's groups—spoke.) In 1920, a concerted effort was made to make the women's suffrage movement nationwide and by the next year, the National Federation of Women's Clubs was established, its campaign given voice by Women's Outlook edited by Trinidad Fernandez Legarda in English and Purita V. Kalaw in Spanish. That same year, women joined the independence movement with the organization of the National League of Filipino Women by Dr. Maria Paz Mendoza Guanzon.

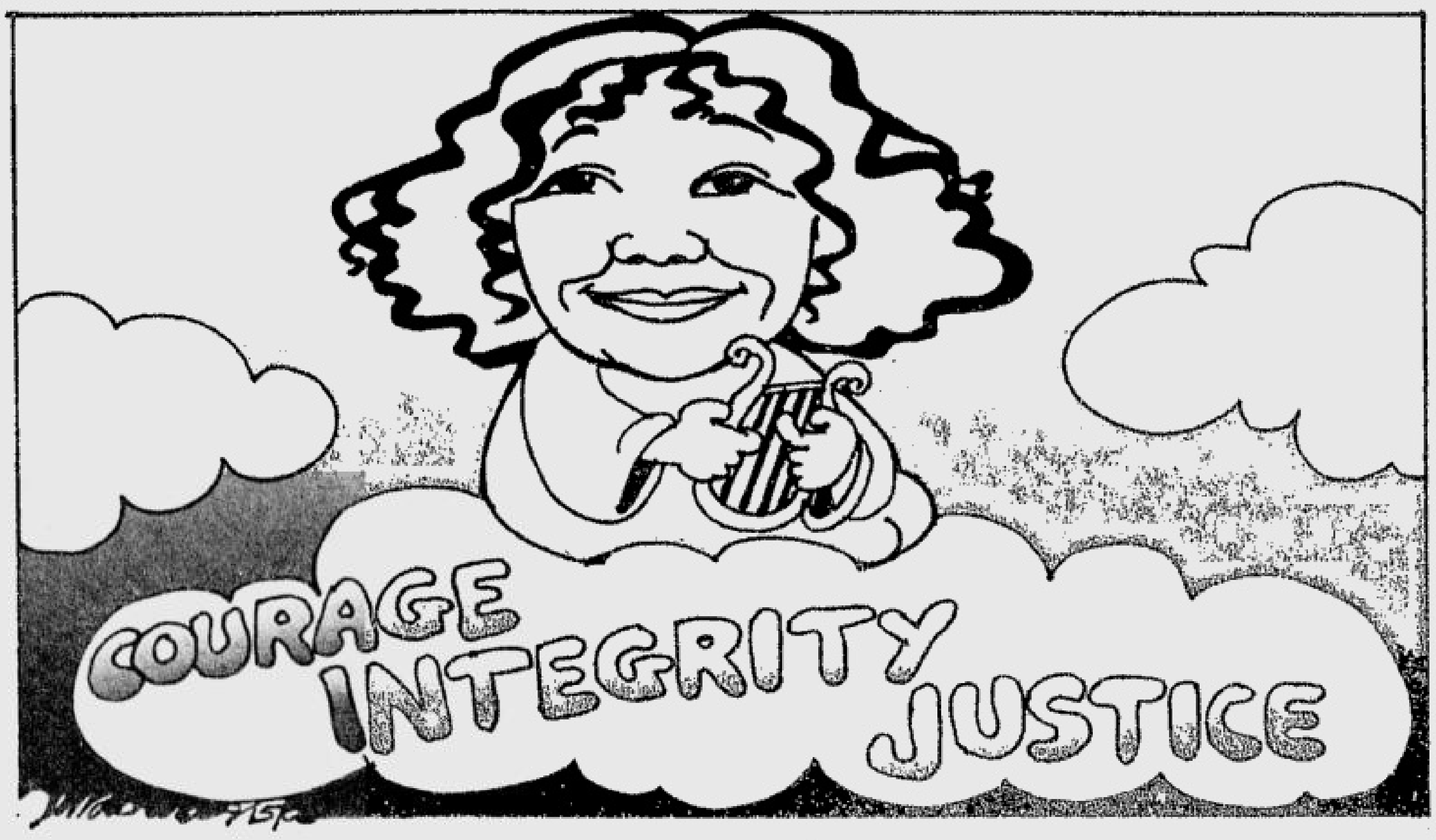
These efforts bore fruit when a law was finally passed by the Philippine legislature in 1933 extending suffrage to women. It was, however, superseded with the establishment of the Philippine Commonwealth. Women again had to lobby for their right to vote during the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention. The National Federation of Women's Clubs created the General Council of Women, led by Pilar Hidalgo Lim and Josefa Llanes Escoda, to make sure a provision in the 1935 Constitution would permit women's suffrage. The Constitution instead required that the women vote either for or against granting themselves the right to vote, and so a law was passed in 1936 setting the date for a plebiscite.

Women who were campaigning for the right to vote again organized themselves in order to overwhelmingly approve suffrage for themselves. Half a million Filipinas across the nation registered for the plebiscite, and 447,725 voted yes.

On Sept. 15, 1937, suffrage was formally extended to women over the age of 21. And in all our constitutions since then, suffrage has been considered a right of all Filipinos, regardless of sex. (The significance of the Filipino women's struggle and its success perhaps can be better appreciated if one considers that women in France gained the right to vote only after World War II.)

The political gains were immediate. In November 1937, two months after women gained the right to vote, Carmen Planas was elected as member of the city council of Manila, along with three lady members of provincial boards, two mayors, 13 vice mayors and 306 municipal councilors. In 1940, the number of women elected to office reached 800, led by the first congresswoman to sit in the National Assembly: Elisa R. Ochoa of Misamis Occidental. The first congresswomen of the Republic were Remedios Ozamiz Fortich of Bukidnon in 1946, Medina Lacson de Leon of Bataan in 1949, and Carmen Dinglasan Consing in 1953. The first senator of the Republic was Geronima Pecson who was elected in 1947. Asuncion Perez, as social welfare administrator was the first woman to hold Cabinet rank during the time of President Manuel Roxas. In the judiciary, Natividad Almeda Lopez became the first woman judge and the first woman associate justice of the Court of Appeals, while Cecilia Muñoz Palma became the first woman associate justice of the Supreme Court.

One hundred years after they began their struggle, it is only fitting to remember with gratitude the many great Filipino women whose efforts then, as now, have enabled other women, like Yorac, to play a big, positive role in our national life.



Fire sale

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"NOT FOR SALE!"

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos tacked that shingle on her tattered crusader's credentials after she skipped to Singapore to avoid the impeachment vote. This "failure of judgment" stemmed from love for mother, she murmured.

Marcos reasonably notes that Imelda backs President Macapagal-Arroyo. Right, greater love than this no woman has than to mortgage a congressional vote to bury dear old dad in Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Not for Sale" is also her mama's slogan. The former first lady told BBC she'd sue a cash-strapped regime if it auctioned an estimated $10 million (P560 million) worth of jewelry. These were seized from the Marcoses after People Power I sent them scampering to Hawaiian exile. "Some are family heirlooms," she explained to The Independent. "I'm praying for their return."

That may put calluses on Madame's knees. Three batches of precious stones were seized. One batch was recovered in Malacañang. Worth $9 million, the Roumeliotes collection was seized in March 1986 from a fleeing Greek national. US customs officers impounded jewels in "32 to 34 Louis Vuitton cases" when the Marcoses disembarked in Honolulu.

Current plans set an auction in Geneva this November, the peak season for jewelry sales there, or May 2006. But experts from Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses are due to assess the stones stashed in the vaults of the Bangko Sentral.

The trove includes a Persian-style necklace studded with more than 100 carats of pink and canary diamonds. Another bracelet, crafted by Bulgari, has a 30.7 carat stone embedded in the center. That is appraised at $800,000.

"The government has not shown any proof the funds used to purchase them were ill-gotten," Imelda protested to Reuters. But the Presidential Commission on Good Government scoffs that the Supreme Court has upheld the seizures.

"Tis plate of rare device and jewels / Of rich and exquisite form, their values great, /And I am something curious, being strange / To have them in sale stowage," Shakespeare notes in "The Comedy of Errors."

As in other Imelda sallies, there'll be varied reactions to this fire sale. That's guaranteed by what former Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew called, in his memoirs "The Singapore Story," the Marcoses' "penchant for flamboyant frivolity in a country of desperate poverty."

Filipinos have "a soft forgiving culture," he wrote. "Only in the Philippines could a leader, like Ferdinand Marcos, who pillaged his country for 20 years, still be considered for a national (hero's) burial."

"Imelda had a penchant for luxury," Lee adds. "When they visited Singapore, they came in two DC-8s, his and hers... Like Hollywood melodrama, these could have happened only in the Philippines."

"Even the devil can participate in the auction," says PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede. "She can bid for the jewels in an open market."

The PCGG, in fact, under the late graft-buster Haydee Yorac, won a Supreme Court decision that saw $683 million, squirreled in Marcos shell foundations abroad, returned to the national treasury.

Others will recall Supreme Court decisions that found disparity between the declared income of the Marcos couple and their properties. Some will dust off the old martial law wisecrack: "Imelda is into the mining industry. This is mine. That is mine. All is mine."

This controversy reminds me of the time I drove a United Nations colleague from the Termini in central Rome to Leonardo da Vinci Airport. As International Labor Organization economist Lim Lin Lean buckled herself, she cracked, "I didn't know you Filipinos were that rich!"

Seeing the puzzled look on my face, she explained. In her spare time, she gawked through the jewelry displays at Bulgari. Suddenly, store employees began shooing everybody out.

"It was your first lady, Imelda Marcos, who was shopping. Proletariats like us were locked out," she laughed.

"Well, diamonds are a woman's best friend," I weakly countered.

"Those of us in the cheaper sets are told to clap. The rest rattle their jewelry." But this is farce that sears. The yardstick for man's worth is measured in carats, not in his God-given nature.

"Next to a spirit of discernment, the rarest things in the world, are diamonds and pearls," Jean de la Bruyere once wrote.

Shaped by Ignatian discernment, held by Japanese captors and afflicted by World War II shortages, this Jesuit seminarian wrote about the carat-less wealth. Here are excerpts from the 1943 (?) "Jewels of the Pauper" written by Horacio de la Costa, SJ:

"We are a remarkably poor people ... even in riches of the spirit.., No Shakespeare, no Cervantes has yet been born among us to touch, with immortality, that in our landscape, in our customs, which is most vital, most original, most ourselves....

"But this pauper, among the nations of the earth, hides two jewels in her rags. One of them is our music. We are one people when we sing....

"We are again one people when we pray. This is our other treasure: our faith. It gives somehow to our little uneventful days a kind of splendor, as though touched by a King....

"These are the bands that bind us together. These are the soul that make us one... As long as there remains one mother to sing a lullaby and one priest to offer God to God, this nation may be conquered, trampled upon, enslaved, but it can not perish. Like the sun that dies every evening, it will rise again from the dead."

'Kulit'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FRIEND WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE recently and introduced me on stage as someone who, not unlike John the Baptist, had been a voice in the wilderness for some time but who now had a chorus of voices behind him. He was referring to the fact that for many years I belonged to a tiny minority, if indeed I was not alone, warning about GMA's obsession with power and misguided rule.

Well, if I feel at all like John the Baptist, it is only because of my hair, which has grown long and unkempt. Thankfully, I do not have a scraggly beard as well. These days, I feel more like Gandalf the Gray, with much of my hair turning into that color, if not indeed like Gandalf the White, half of it having already gone in that direction. In any case, I prefer Gandalf because he won in the end. The comparison with John the Baptist gives me the uncomfortable reminder that the fellow didn't just remain a voice in the wilderness he—or his head—ended up on a silver platter as offering to Herod, upon the request of Salome.

The sublime irony is that the people who bitterly arraigned me for being "anti-GMA" are now loudest in vituperating her. I can more honestly categorize them as "anti-GMA" since theirs is a more personal anti: They don't want her to be president anymore after they helped her mightily to foist a plague upon us and become what she is today.

Well, I can't say that my anti wasn't personal either. When someone taxes me to death just so she can extirpate in the name of "anti-terrorism" the civil rights this country's martyrs fought so hard to get, I take it very, very personally. When someone borrows more than two presidents combined, assigning the money to the account of one Jose Pidal and the onus of paying it to my kids and their kids, I take it very, very personally. Of course, telling the ex-pro- and currently anti-GMA people "I told you so" is just a cheap thrill, but who says I don't like cheap thrills? I told you so.

I don't know that it takes a gift of prophecy to be able to foretell how things are going to unravel in this country. You need only common sense. You need only exercise your senses. I've always wondered why people want a sixth sense when they don't bother using their five anyway, especially the first, which is sight. You have to be blind not to have seen where the current occupant of Malacañang was headed over the last four years. All the signs were there, aglow in neon.

Another leader would have shown humility, if not trepidation, in stepping into the shoes of an ousted president, particularly one who did nothing to contribute to it. GMA acted as though it was owed her. Another leader would have praised those who kept a candle burning in the dark rather than those who descended in light of day to pluck the prize. GMA praised the generals who came last first and the activists who came first last in her inaugural speech. Another leader would have been circumspect about betraying the cause that gave her power gratuitously. GMA immediately waved the olive branch at Erap after his own horde massed at Edsa.

Another beneficiary of Edsa would have found in its dreams of peace her true calling. GMA found in George W. Bush's dreams of empire her true essence. (I truly will take a long time to forgive the ex-pro-GMA officials for that one. Was it not patent even then that that version of anti-terrorism merely constituted anti-everything democracy, not to speak of people power, stood for?) Another leader would not have lied openly on the graves of Jose Rizal and Pope John Paul II. GMA did, about her intention not to run and about her dragging her feet on Edsa II. Another leader would have not have stolen the elections. GMA did, helloing Garci to talk not just of winning by one million votes (*dagdag* is the least of her crimes) but about making witnesses scarce. Another leader would have resigned after apologizing for the worst possible crime in an election. GMA is still there, like Medusa causing people to die just by looking at her.

Could not this preponderance of evidence have shown her up for what she is? I will not say I told you so, I will just draw a lesson from it.

Over the past several months, I've heard people say that the reason people are loath to go back to the streets is that the last two Edsas failed. Not at all. Edsa, didn't fail, we did. We failed by thinking Edsa was the end when it was in fact only the beginning. We failed by thinking that after we had felled a despot, we could pat ourselves on the back for a job well done and slink back into obscurity, letting the new ruler take care of things, ignoring the signs of tyranny creeping back. We failed by thinking we, the people, were no longer needed, we could get on with our private lives or secret identities until, like Zorro, we are summoned to don mask and cape to right a wrong, to end a new oppression. That concept of Edsa sucks.

While it is a resplendent thing, Edsa is also an admission of defeat. It is also proof of failure. It is the clearest sign that we never raised a voice to prevent things from getting to a point where we have to take the most heroic action just to get the most basic things. It is the surest sign that we never bestirred ourselves to stop the madness, or only excoriated others who did because their passions reflected on our apathy, being roused from stupor only at the last two minutes, and only by a need to survive, only by an instinct for self-preservation. I've never stopped believing in the worth of Edsa. But I've never stopped believing either in the importance of making sure the very next day we won't need to do it again.

Thomas Jefferson did say the price of freedom was eternal vigilance. I can only echo his thought:

The price of peace is perpetual *kulit*.

Bishops refused to be stampeded

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT WAS HEARTENING TO NOTE OVER THE past few days that the call for a moratorium on attacks against President Macapagal-Arroyo came from the media themselves. Last Tuesday, I caught dzRH announcer Joe Taruc agreeing with a caller that perhaps we ought to support GMA's efforts to represent the country in New York City where world leaders have gathered for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. GMA addresses the General Assembly and, perhaps more significantly, presides over only the third summit of the Security Council, the heart of the UN, since it was founded in 1945. This is the first time that an Asian leader and a woman head of state ever gets to preside over the Security Council. Thus, it is a singular honor for the Philippines and the Filipino people and is worth many millions of dollars in positive publicity for us.

* * *

This feat has not been lost on both radio commentators and their listeners, judging from the callers. Taruc, in fact, stressed that there should be a respite from the usual political bickering while GMA is abroad with her fellow leaders from around the world. Over dzMM, veteran commentator Ted Failon echoed the same sentiment. Doubtless, the nation is comforted by the thought that for one fleeting moment we are united in projecting our country positively abroad. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this one brief shining moment could slide into permanence?

For GMA, such respite must be particularly welcome, after she went through the most vicious vilification campaign that any president has ever suffered. The recent junking by the House of Representatives of the impeachment complaints made her moment at the UN doubly significant for her.

Also not lost on the public was the fact that GMA took a regular commercial PAL flight to Los Angeles instead of chartering a plane.

* * *

The Catholic bishops made another Holy Spirit-inspired move last Tuesday when its permanent council issued a statement that balanced different political sentiments even as it stopped short once again, as the bishops had done in July 10, of exacerbating the charged political situation. The bishops were emphatic that the search for truth must continue and that the people could take recourse in "People Power" as a valid political exercise. But they also stressed that this quest must be guided by the rule of law and the Constitution. They also stressed that the country must now move forward and regard the current political crisis as a God-given challenge to our people to grow and mature. They said there is no new and compelling reason to question anew the culpability of the President and pointed out that allegations are not facts.

* * *

It is obvious from their statement that the bishops refuse to be stampeded into proclaiming the "truth" according to the more radical elements in society. Hence, they refuse to condemn GMA for election fraud based on tampered and illegally-acquired tapes, though they encourage her to continue looking inside her heart. They also refused to condemn the House vote to decisively junk the impeachment complaint, recognizing its constitutionality.

* * *

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles sent me a text message to "fully concur with the bishops' call for sobriety and to follow the rule of law." He said the bishops' recent statements point to the fact that the "people's court" or the "revolutionary transitory government" that the opposition advocates have no basis in law and therefore are not viable options in the search for "truth." Nograles opines that the only recourse provided by the Constitution to those who have grievances against impeachable officials is the "legal mechanisms" in the law.

* * *

I agree. People power is indeed a legal option guaranteed under the right of assembly, but this has so far failed to emerge in our current political crisis, largely because people are tired of street protests and there are no credible leaders in the opposition. The other Wednesday, the rally of a few thousands at the People Power Monument along Edsa stranded people in traffic for about five or six hours. My assistant's brother recounted later that people in his bus were so angry about the horrendous traffic and blamed the opposition thus: *"Bakit hindi nila tanggapin na wala silang* 79 votes?" The people are not fooled.

* * *

The political opposition has labeled its efforts to oust GMA as a "moral issue." But the first question that comes to mind is, are the people seeking to remove her from office themselves exemplars of morality? Last Tuesday, I cited the issues now being raised against former President Aquino, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Dinky Soliman. They appear to have their own "moral issues." On the other hand, former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, who has made himself available to head the transition council, has to explain the graft and corruption in the military when he was at the helm of the AFP/DND, specifically the RSBS scandal. The leader of the House impeachment team, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, who was very much a part of the Marcos and Estrada regimes, chose to cover up for the truth of Imelda Marcos' involvement during her celebrated trial in New York.

On the other hand, some of the younger representatives who like to project an aura of idealism may be found wanting. For instance, Rep. Joel Villanueva of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption arrogantly rails against the corruption of the Arroyo administration, but in the impeachment trial of Luzviminda Tancangco, his group voted with the opposition to exonerate her despite the tons of evidence. In the hometown of the Villanuevas in Bulacan, people know why another Villanueva scion was not reelected as mayor.

Why isn't it tipping?

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"THE TIPPING POINT IS THAT MAGIC MOMENT when an idea, trend or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire... The tipping point is the moment of critical mass, the threshold, the boiling point ... It is the name given to that one dramatic moment in an epidemic when everything can change all at once."

Those definitions are from the bestseller and page-turner "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference" by Malcolm Gladwell. (His latest is "Blink.")

I think of the tipping point this way: Imagine holding a tray with a handful of marbles on one side. You tip the tray at an angle but the marbles seem unwilling to roll over to the other side. You tip some more. Then at a certain angle, the marbles suddenly all roll in unison to the other side.

At that tipping point, movement takes place. This example, similar to the seesaw, illustrates in a physical way the so-called tipping point phenomenon which political watchers—in barbershops and beauty salons, political circles, cockpits, churches, academe—are anticipating.

When would it happen? How would it happen? Why isn't it happening? "It" is some kind of People Power III, reminiscent of the previous two that saw a long-staying dictator and a president, just two years in office, removed dramatically.

Just an aside: "The tipping point" has found its way to the lips of politicians who love the phrases "at the end of the day" and—this one will make Einstein and editors cringe—"at this point in time."

Since Day One of the political crisis engulfing the Arroyo administration, spawned by the so-called "Hello, Garci" tapes, people have been anticipating, either with eagerness or with dread, PGMA's downfall. Many thought it would be in early July when a series of events happened in one day. There were bold moves, such as resignations from the Cabinet, protests in the streets and louder calls for PGMA to step down, with no less than former President Cory Aquino in the lead.

That day the clamor seemed to be peaking and the balance seemed to be tipping. And if you based your predictions on the way things appeared on TV, it was just a matter of hours or days, even as loyal local government officials from the provinces made the opposite move and came to the President's rescue.

PGMA didn't resign. The tide against her wasn't forceful enough to topple her.

The impeachment process in Congress took place. The much-watched process was nipped in the bud early on during the longest-in-history plenary session. More than 200 valedictories with immortal quotations—from Mother Teresa, Saint Paul, Aristotle, Newton to Cardinal Sin—yielded a 158-51-6 vote.

Again, street protests, led by Ms Aquino and a mix of ideologically and politically incompatible and divergent bedfellows linking arms, ensued. Still, the balance didn't tip. People Power III wasn't happening. Why?

Tired of waiting for it to happen? Relieved that it hasn't happened? Baffled and befuddled? Maybe we can learn a thing or two from Gladwell's explorations on how social epidemics spread, whether these are fashion trends, diseases, behavior patterns or crime. As journalist Deirdre Donahue said: "One of the most interesting aspects of Gladwell's book is the way it reaffirms that human beings are profoundly social beings influenced by and influencing other human beings, no matter how much technology we introduce into our lives."

That seems to be telling us not to trust the texting brigade too much, that we forget there are other more effective ways like, um, word of mouth and having the right people say the right things. The right people to cast the first stone.

Gladwell does not just propose answers from out of the blue. He explains by investigating true-to-life events that showed how the tipping point phenomena occurred. How did Hush Puppies regain its popularity in a spontaneous way? Why did the Baltimore syphilis epidemic peak? What was it about Paul Revere and his midnight ride across Boston in 1775 that resulted in the routing of the British and the start of the war known as the American Revolution? Why did Paul Revere's warning tip while another crier's did not?

Gladwell also expounds on the results of experiments conducted by social psychologists, such as the one by Stanley Milgram who wanted to find an answer to what is called the "small-world" problem. How are human beings connected? Do we all belong to separate worlds or are we all bound together in an interlocking web? How does an idea, or a piece of news—The British are coming!—travel through a population?

The results were confounding.

Gladwell summarizes the rules of the Tipping Point into three: the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor and the Power of Context.

The Law of the Few says that through social connections, energy, enthusiasm and personality, word spreads.

The Stickiness Factor says that there are specific ways of making a contagious message memorable; there are relatively simple changes in the presentation and structuring of information that make a big difference in how much of an impact it makes.

The Power of Context says that human beings are a lot more sensitive to their environment than they may seem.

So why is it not tipping? Or to use another situation, why is the cake not rising? Maybe the ingredients are old, stale and spoiled. Maybe the ingredients are incompatible.

"The Tipping Point" is also about changing one's way of looking at the world. I did that two weeks ago by attending a seminar on the Quantum World under Dr. Ibarra "Nim" Gonzales.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Women fought for their own rights

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TODAY MARKS 68 YEARS SINCE MANUEL L. Quezon signed the law recognizing women's suffrage. He welcomed it, but hadn't always felt that way.

On Oct. 10, 1914, Quezon, then the resident commissioner, delivered some remarks in the US Congress, on a proposal to include a provision in the Jones Law extending the right of suffrage to women in the Philippines. He said, "Mr. Chairman, let me say right here that I believe in the political equality of men and women. I would not subscribe to the theory that the right to vote belongs exclusively to man because of his sex; therefore I would not withhold the franchise from women if they wanted to exercise it; but neither would I impose this duty upon them against their will. I say 'duty,' because, in my opinion, while the ballot is a right, once the right has been granted it thereby becomes one of the most important duties of citizenship. I am therefore opposed to the amendment ... because the women of my country—practically all of them, so far as I know their will—do not want to vote."

He went on to recount: "A few years ago, a woman suffrage movement was undertaken in Manila that ended in complete failure. A few meetings were held, but it has not been possible to create any interest in this movement either on the part of the men or on the part of the women, still less to find any number of advocates for it. In the provinces, nobody ever attempted to discuss the question, and our women there would be decidedly against it. I hope, therefore, Mr. Chairman, that the committee, in its wisdom, will not care to impose upon our women the duty of voting."

Still he made a spirited defense of Filipino women on the following grounds: "Since the establishment of public schools during the American regime, the benefit of free education has been equally enjoyed by our girls and our boys. Instances are not rare when in the classes the intellectual star shines from among the girls. In the University of the Philippines some of the graduating classes have been headed by girls. I venture to say, therefore, Mr. Chairman, that the character and intelligence of our women alone would justify our optimism as to the wonderful possibilities of our country. Now, let me give the committee a piece of information taken from volume 2, page 117, of the Philippine Census which is very interesting. It is as follows: The number of women who reported themselves as prostitutes was 476, nearly all of whom were in Manila. Of these, 75 were white, nearly all the countries of Europe being represented, besides the United States. Two hundred and sixty, or more than half, were yellow, practically all of whom were Japanese, and only 141, or 1 in 25,000 of the female population of the islands, were Filipinos. It is rather extraordinary that in this Malay Archipelago seven-tenths of all the prostitutes were from foreign lands, a fact which speaks volumes for the chastity of the Filipinos.... It is unnecessary to impose upon our women the burden of going to the polls because they are already interested in public questions. Their wholesome influence, exercised at home, tells on the public mind."

And yet, as Senate president, by 1919, Quezon came out categorically in favor of women's suffrage. What changed his mind? The women themselves—in particular their organizing themselves throughout the country, under the umbrella of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, and their determined lobbying for the right to vote. Thus, on Jan. 21, 1937, as President of the Philippines, he issued this press statement:

"To the Filipino People: On the eve of my departure abroad on a mission of far-reaching consequence to the nation, I desire to make an earnest appeal in favor of woman suffrage, which will be decided by the qualified women of the country in a plebiscite to be held on April 30, 1937.

"Almost every democratic country in the world today has woman suffrage; the Philippines cannot afford to be an exception.

"The common people, the farm laborers, the factory workers, and the small employees will be the first ones to be benefited by the extension of the vote to women, because the majority of these new electors, as is the case with the majority of male electors, belong to the class above mentioned, and, therefore, their influence in the Government will be greater and doubtless will be exerted in favor of measures and legislation that will promote their well-being. The women in the factories, in the barrios, and in the far-flung communities, who are qualified to vote, should all come out and vote for woman suffrage on the appointed day."

On April 4, 1937, by radio hook-up from Washington, D.C., he broadcast this appeal: "I am very happy to have this opportunity of addressing you today. It is a long way from Washington to the Philippines and I am beginning to feel homesick, but I am here in the performance of a most important duty that I hope will bring happiness to our people...

"I wish to reiterate my hope that the women of our country may at last use their right to vote. I hope all the women who possess the qualifications required by law will not only register but also vote favorably in the plebiscite upon this question. Filipino women are not as yet in full possession of all their rights, and unless they make an early decision on this question in the National Administration, it will take a long time before all their rights are secured. I hope all the men of the Philippines will be willing to seek the advice and collaboration of their mothers, wives, and daughters in public affairs just as they seek them in their private business. The Filipino woman is the equal of the best in the world and there is no reason why she should not enjoy all the rights and privileges of women in more progressive countries."

Women's rights have been the achievement of women alone; they have led, and forced the men to follow.

First things first

YOUNG BLOOD

Paolo Raynor E. Salvosa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

SINCE I FIRST HEARD THE "HELLO GARCI" TAPES, I'VE harbored a deep anger. My friends no longer bring up the issue when I'm around, lest I erupt in fury. But while I cannot let the issue rest, just like many other Filipinos, I was confused about what to do until I discussed it with my father. He told me it was not just a matter of thinking things through, but thinking about the right things.

Contrary to what many people think, the opposition did not make the situation worse. The crisis did not start when the opposition exposed the tape. It started when the people began noticing the suspicious behavior of Malacañang officials, which made them look like they were hiding something.

At first, President Macapagal-Arroyo kept her silence about the tapes, tapes that strongly suggest that she manipulated the elections in her favor. Then, there was the "Bunye fumble." Next, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez started threatening everyone with imprisonment even if they just listened to the tapes. And things reached the breaking point when the President apologized on national television for her "lapse in judgment."

If there is anything that the political crisis has put in focus, it is not just the lack of accountability of our public officials but the need to hold them to higher ethical standards, especially if she happens to be the President. Public officials are not only supposed to be competent but, more importantly, they are supposed to be people of integrity.

I would choose an honest farmer for president over an intelligent but corrupt politician, any day of the week and twice on Sunday. Because at the end of the day, you can trust the honest farmer who lacks political skills and economic savvy to do his best to serve the nation in accordance with the Constitution. A corrupt politician, on the other hand, can hardly do anything good for the country. Case in point: Cory Aquino vs. Ferdinand Marcos, housewife vs. lawyer (unless you are stupid to think we were better off under Marcos, of course).

The issue confronting us now goes beyond the question of the President's innocence or guilt. It revolves around trust, the heart of the social contract between the government and the people. Hence the phrase, "Public office is public trust."

The President betrayed that trust when she went on TV and apologized for her "lapse in judgment." The people wanted her to speak up and explain the contents of the tapes, hoping to be given simple yes or no answers to their questions. But when she spoke up, she never gave clear answers. She insulted our intelligence by not naming the official as if it was irrelevant. Her declaration that she did not cheat cannot be believed unless she gives a credible explanation for the conversations caught on the tapes.

Her statement consisted of half-truths and in so doing, she betrayed the public trust. And for this, there can be no room for understanding or leniency precisely because she is the President.

I have heard people, mostly administration officials, say that it is the system that is the source of our problems. While that may be true to a certain degree, the system cannot be blamed entirely for any individual's actions. Statements such as, "You can put the pope in Malacañang and he will still fail because the system will make him fail," or "A bad system breeds bad politicians," are self-defeating. To argue this way is to shirk responsibility.

Certainly, removing GMA from the presidency will not solve all our problems. The system is very much in need of reforms. But first things first, and first, GMA has to go. The campaign for reforms cannot move forward without integrity in government.

Political unrest and division are growing, legislation has been put on hold, and the economy is no longer being given full attention. To make matters worse, violence may be looming on the horizon. The NPA, MILF, and other militant groups are stepping up their operations to take advantage of the situation. And very soon, the military might be dragged into the equation and we might enter a period of greater violence and turmoil. The precious, little progress we have made could simply go down the drain. The President put her own interest above that of the nation's when she refused to resign in spite of these inevitable consequences.

At this point, any worthwhile discussion should just revolve around how we will boot out a President who is desperately using the system to hang on to her office. But whatever action we decide on must be guided by the Constitution. This means that the constitutional succession of Vice President Noli de Castro must be assured the moment the presidency becomes vacant.

I do not like De Castro. I did not vote for him. But only GMA deserves to be kicked out. No individual or group has the right to set aside the votes of millions of Filipinos who elected De Castro simply because he thinks he is "unfit" or it will not change things.

Putting anyone else as president would violate the Constitution and be another betrayal of public trust.

Furthermore, any action we take to rectify the situation must be non-violent. That means our only options are people power or impeachment. Otherwise we set a precedent for the use of violence in resolving future political controversies. If we cannot have a dialogue without guns, then we cannot really have a dialogue at all.

And then what? Unfortunately there is no fool-proof plan that will get us out of the hole we are in. The most we can do is draw up a good plan, have faith and proceed step by step.

Paolo Raynor E. Salvosa, 20, is an AB European Studies senior at the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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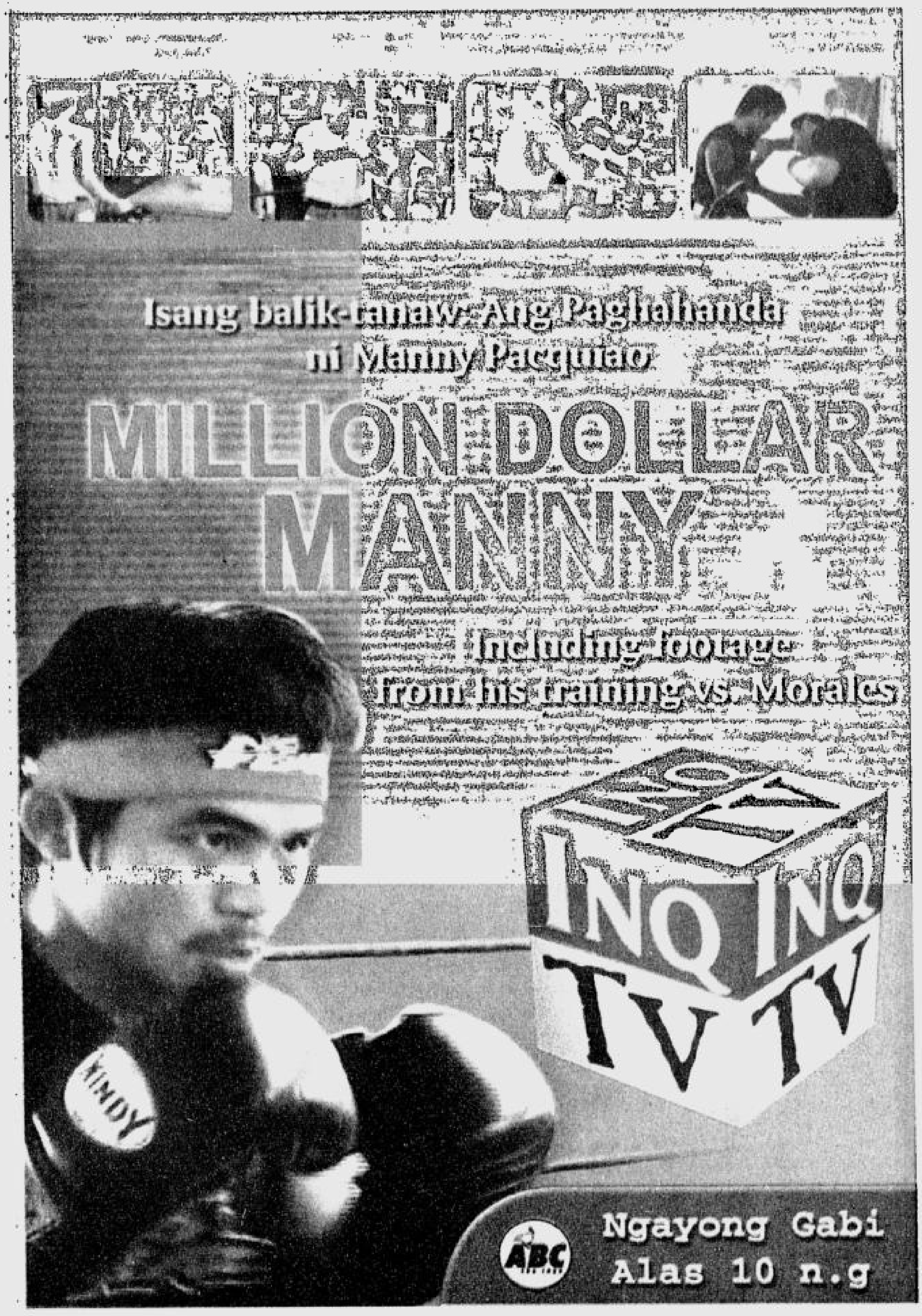
Isang balik-tanaw: Ang Paghahanda ni Manny Pacquiao

MILLION DOLLAR MANNY

Including footage from his training vs. Morales

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Ngayong Gabi
Alas 10 n.g

Wanted: men for our times

CONSIDERING THE PRESENT POLITICAL scenario, is it not fit and proper to remind our leaders of Thomas Paine's "These are the times that try men's souls"? So now our country needs:

- men who cannot be bought
- whose word is their bond
- who put character above wealth
- who possess opinions and a will
- who are larger than their vocations
- who do not hesitate to take chances
- who will not lose their individuality in a crowd
- who will be honest in small things as in great things
- who will make no compromise with wrong
- whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires
- who will not say they do it "since everybody does it"
- who are true to their friends in adversity as well as in prosperity
- who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning and hardheadedness are the best qualities for winning success
- who are not ashamed or afraid to stand for the truth even when it is unpopular
- who can say "No" with emphasis, although the rest of the world says "Yes"

(From Charles Swindoll, "Living Above the Level of Mediocrity," P. 1078.)

—PROCESO K. DE GALA,
retired RTC judge,
730 Labak 2, Poblacion Candelaria,
Quezon 4323

Clarifications on 'untrained' journalists

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INQUIRER for covering the issue of slain journalists, which we believe is linked to the issue of press freedom in the country.

We would like, however, to make a few clarifications on the story "Study says 54 slain media men not 'trained' journalists." (PDI, 9/6/05)

The study, which was released by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility in a press conference last Sept. 5, only focused on the 25 journalists killed in the line of duty between 2000 and 2005. It did not look closely into the background of the 54 who were killed between 1986 and 1999. To say all "54 had no media training" is misleading because, as we had pointed out: (1) we have no conclusive data on those killed prior to 2000; (2) we only referred to their "formal college education" and not the informal training they might have received through the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas and other media organizations.

We are writing to correct the wrong impression created by the article and to avoid confusing the readers. We appreciate your efforts to inform the public about the plight and status of our fellow journalists.

—RACHEL E. KHAN,
deputy director,
Center for Media Freedom
and Responsibility,
rekhan@cmfr-phil.org

The misreading regarding the scope of the study may have stemmed from the CMFR press materials handed out during the conference. The correction is much appreciated.

—VOLT CONTRERAS,
PDI reporter

'Sleeping' Supreme Court cases

I AGREE WITH FORMER JUSTICE ISAGANI Cruz's suggestion that the Supreme Court "attend more to the many cases still sleeping" in its dockets "instead of needlessly exhibiting their erudition" by writing concurring opinions that "were simply icing on the cake, and not necessarily palatable." (PDI, 8/27/05)

As I was reading Cruz's column, I could not help but wonder what happened to the Casile, Cabuyao, Laguna farmers' case that was the subject of a news report by Marlon Ramos. (PDI, 4/14/05) As I was passing the Supreme Court building at about 10 a.m. of Aug. 16, I read a handout by a group holding a picket in front of it. The handout stated that the Supreme Court has not resolved the landowner's motion for reconsideration of the March 16, 2005 amended decision, although the farmer-beneficiaries' counsel and the solicitor general have already filed their respective comment on the motion. It added that the amended decision was unanimously decided by the members of the Special First Division and was reversed on second motion for reconsideration. Then, I don't see any reason why the case has not been resolved with finality to this day.

What's the cause of the delay? The Social Weather Stations survey states that 50 percent of lawyers say judges accept bribes. (PDI, 8/27/05) I don't think Supreme Court justices accept bribes. But an early resolution of the Casile farmers' case will surely help unclog the Supreme Court dockets and dispel any doubt on the integrity of the Supreme Court justices.

—ISABEL Q. MALALAD,
171 A. Mabini St., Cainta, Rizal

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Priest preaches 'bio-dynamic' farming

By Gil Francis Arevalo
Bacacay, Albay

PAY MOMOY during a healing session every Saturday at the monastery of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity in Barangay Bonga, Bacacay, Albay.
ELPIDIO ALANO/CONTRIBUTOR

FOR FR. EFREN "PAY Momoy" Borromeo, spiritual and communal healing should emanate from three very interconnected "S" principles—healing the soil, healing the soul, and healing the society.

What most people, especially most of his patients, do not know or simply take for granted, according to the priest-healer, is that the very basic important thing in healing, aside from faith, is the environment and the food.

Pay Momoy noted that most of the vegetable and animal products in the market had been produced using synthetic chemicals.

He also observed the frenzied emergence of agribusiness that uses massive amounts of chemicals to provide nutrients to the food.

Amid these trends, it is very important to be bio-dynamic, he said.

"Most of my patients, both here and abroad, are suffering from various kinds of cancer. With a strong desire to be healed, most of them are terminally ill patients on stretchers, wearing oxygen masks or attached to IV fluids," said Pay Momoy.

He holds healing sessions every Saturday at the monastery of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity in Barangay Bonga, Bacacay, Albay. The site is a five-hectare land at the foot of Mayon Volcano, which serves as the Trinitas home for contemplation, as well as a retreat and healing center.

Pay Momoy accommodates 600 to 800 people every session. His patients suffer from physical, emotional and even psychological problems.

As "instrument of the healing God," the spiritual healer stressed the importance of reminding people that organic farming is but synonymous to "basic divine nourishment."

"What we eat determines the kind of illnesses that we have," he said.

That's why, he said, he wanted to expand further the one-ha area already planted with a wide variety of fruits, as well as ornamental, herbal and other medicinal plants.

The healing center has a vast area for food grown without chemicals.

Apart from his healing gift, Pay Momoy said it was also part of his mission to impart the living soil as a source of life, which is popularly known as positive or enlightening energy.

Healing the soil is the first step toward healing one's soul and society, he said. That is why patients' participation and acceptance are key factors in the renewal or conversion process of communal healing, he said.

"One can only feel that he's totally healed if he has first the personal recollection of the beauty and his oneness with one of God's creations—nature," he explained.

For several years of healing patients, it has been his way of letting them know that each one of them has the capability to be a healer, Pay Momoy said.

"But before you can do that, it's important that you know how to heal yourself," the priest stressed.

"Oftentimes, people are not so conscious of the very simple thing about their health and surroundings until they become sick and thereby seek a healer that will make him feel better."

Everything, he said, was interconnected and always happened for a reason. "If you're not conscious of your health, especially with the food you eat and your surroundings, then most likely you'll get sick, and the thing is, it will get worse and will pass on to the next generation."

Pay Momoy advised people not to let the next generation also suffer the illnesses that the present sick people are experiencing.

"So, with the gift that I have, I'm willing to help them not just be healed but to understand and cooperate with the process of communal healing. It's not just me and my co-healer that would heal the person but the community as a whole," he said.

Pay Momoy has been observed to be empowering all his co-healers in the Trinitas—volunteers, doctors and sick patients—with discovering the gift of healing in them.

Early this year, Pay Momoy teamed up with Dr. Paulita Baklig in launching the "bio-dynamic farming" in a 27-ha land in Mindanao that covers portions of Kidapawan, Bukidnon, and North Cotabato.

After a series of healing sessions there, where his patients were Christians and Muslims, most known doctors in the area have deemed it necessary to adopt Pay Momoy's integrative communal healing.

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (PACCD)
2nd Annual Convention, October 1-2, 2005

The Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) is upholding its commitment as a prime provider of continuing medical education in dermatology in this country.

The Academy will hold its 2nd Annual Convention on October 1-2, 2005 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati with the theme "Hot Topics in Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology."

New trends and advances will be tackled by both local and foreign speakers who will share with us their expertise during this momentous event including updates in Immunology, Hyperpigmentation, Vitiligo, Varicosities, Anti-oxidants, Corticosteroids, Scars, Hormonal Effects on the Skin, Psoriatic Arthritis, Psychiatry in Dermatology, Dermatologic Surgery, Botox Treatment of the Hyperhidrosis, Dermabrasion, Dermal Fillers, Sclerotherapy, Intense Pulse Light Treatment for Hair Reduction, Aptos, and Endermologie.

Convention is limited to 500 participants only.

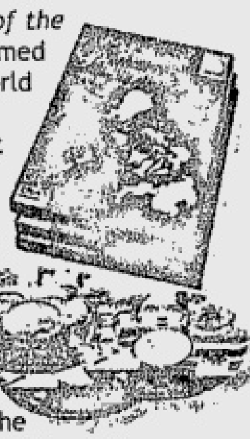
The Academy is also open for membership for doctors with three years dermatology training.

For further inquiries, please call the PACCD Secretariat at (02) 714-4284 or email at paccd_2003@yahoo.com. Visit our website at www.paccd.org.

VIBAL PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC. shines at CEAP '05

Vibal Publishing House, Inc. *takes on a more dynamic role in educational publishing as it declares its new slogan,* Living the Passion for Education. *See that passion come alive at the CEAP National Convention 2005 on September 14-16, 2005 in the scenic city of Davao!*

"Regions" DVD makes it to the World Summit Award

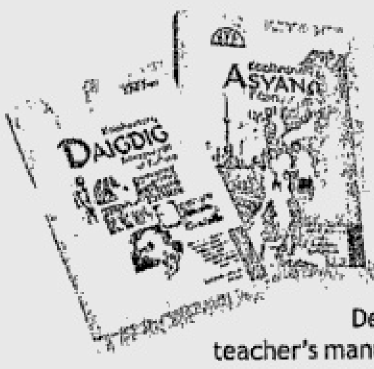


Vibal Publishing House, Inc.'s *Regions of the Philippines* DVD package was recently named the official Philippine entry to the 2005 World Summit Award (WSA).

For being the best e-learning product in the Philippines for 2005, *Regions of the Philippines* automatically became the country's official representative in the e-learning category of the world's premier multimedia award-giving body.

WSA is a global initiative to recognize and promote the world's best in e-content and creativity within the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society.

Vibal launches KKK social studies series



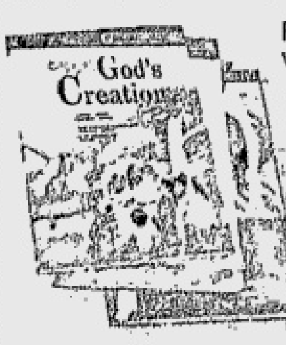
Vibal teams up with academicians and historians from the University of the Philippines (UP) in the publication of *Kamalayan, Kabihasnan at Kaunlaran (KKK).*

The series' well-researched and up-to-date textbooks follow the latest DepEd learning competencies. Its teacher's manuals are pedagogically sound as they are written by experts from the College of Education of the UP Diliman and highlight the ACES teaching approach.

Vibal tapped Dr. Grace Estela C. Mateo to become the series' editor-consultant. Dr. Mateo is an assistant professor in history and the head of the Area Studies Program at the Department of Social Sciences, UP Manila, as well as a social studies representative to the Teacher-Education Council of the DepEd.

Dr. Grace Mateo

RVM and Vibal teams up



RVM Education Ministry Commission and Vibal join forces in coming out with two new series based on the teachings of Christ and the Church.

According to series editor Pilar I. Romero, *RVM Christian Living Series* provides a systematic, contextualized, inculturated, and Christocentric Christian living program exposing students to renewed catechesis.

Living and Loving Families Series, on the other hand, engages high schoolers to a serious study of the Christian family as it prepares them for their journey toward marriage and family life.

RVM and Vibal hope that through these series they can help mold a Filipino citizenry witnessing to Christ's life and love.

Golden and Gintong Salakot storybooks: Perfect reading companions

Storybooks of the *Golden Salakot Stories* and *Kwentong Gintong Salakot* reading programs that develop literacy skills and promote love for reading among the young are now available.

Possessing versatility, they may be adopted individually or as a package that will fit any reading, language, and Filipino curricula. They may be used for supplementary reading, reading for remediation, or reading for recreation/leisure.

Seasoned writers recognized in the field of creative writing pen the stories and multi-awarded and renowned Filipino artists give life to these stories through amazing illustrations. Drs. Lina Diaz de Rivera and Paquito B. Badayos are the project editors of Golden and Gintong Salakot, respectively.

Vibal is the official distributor of Golden and Gintong Salakot, published by its LG&M imprint.

Vibal distributes ETV programs in DVD format

Vibal has just been granted the distributorship rights for the Educational Television (ETV) programs of ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. (AFI) in DVD format.

AFI, represented by E-media program director Zen Dimalanta, and Vibal, through its vice president Nila Vibal-Mata, signed a new memorandum of agreement (MOA) last March 11, 2005 at the ELJ Communication Center, Q.C. The MOA grants Vibal the right to distribute AFI's ETV programs, namely, *Sineskwela, MathTinik, Epol/Apple, Hirayamanawari, Bayani,* and *Pahina* to private schools nationwide.

Through this AFI-Vibal partnership, more Filipino children will be able to benefit from quality and effective television-assisted instruction offered by the multi-awarded ETV programs.

Double Celebration for SD Publications

Student's Digest, the pioneering educational magazine for civics/social studies, just celebrated its 25th year, while *S & T Digest* hits its ten-year mark in enriching students' science learning this year.

Nila Vibal-Mata

Nila Vibal-Mata, SD Publications, Inc. publisher and Vibal vice president, expresses her deep gratitude to all the loyal subscribers for their patronage and ensures them of better features, better learning.

Student's Digest editor in chief Godfrey T. Dancel said, "The secret behind the magazine's continued success is its being able to maintain the tradition of offering carefully written articles on current events, history, culture and related fields."

"*S & T Digest* is not just very informative, it also makes studying science fun and enjoyable. The articles are thoroughly researched and written by authorities in their respective fields. Plus, colorful and interesting graphics make reading the magazine really stimulating," said *S & T Digest* editor Antonette Y. Castillo.

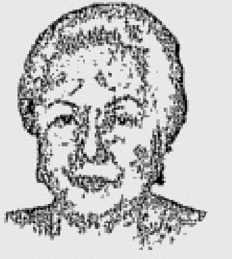
Vibal distributes *Student's Digest* and *S & T Digest* to private schools nationwide.

SHE: EPOW science series now available

After its *Science & Technology (S & T)* high school series posted record sales on its initial run this school year 2005-2006, Vibal is launching the series' grade school counterpart, *Science, Health and Environment: Exploring and Protecting Our World (SHE: EPOW).*

SHE: EPOW features the same modular presentation used in the best-selling *S & T* high school series, found to be most effective in ensuring students' mastery of the lessons.

With Dr. Lilia M. Rabago as editor-consultant, both series boast of a learner-friendly approach.


Dr. Lilia Rabago

Vibal Program of Activities at CEAP '05
SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Series of Launchings
*Maharlika Room, Royal Mandaya Hotel**

10:00 A.M. — Multimedia Products
12:30 P.M. — Yaman ng Pamana: Wika at Pagbasa 1-6
3:15 P.M. — Interactive Language Activity Books K-7

Launching of RVM Series
Grand Men Seng Hotel

12:15 P.M. — RVM Christian Living Series K-IV
and Living and Loving Families I-IV

Launchings of New High School Series
*Vibal Function Room (beside its booth), NCCC Mall**

10:00 A.M. — Language in Literature, Rev. Ed., I-IV
12:30 P.M. — Exploring with MAPEH I-IV
3:15 P.M. — Math XP Series I-IV

* Limited seats

A16 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Across the NATION

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Mayor confirms JI recruiting teens

COTABATO CITY—A TOWN MAYOR IN NORTH Cotabato has confirmed Wednesday that some out-of-school youths in Central Mindanao who have been displaced by previous skirmishes between the military and rebels were recruited to join the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in the province.

Luzviminda Tan, mayor of Kabacan town in North Cotabato, told the INQUIRER that alleged extortionist Abas Limbuan Kalim, during a tactical interrogation, revealed the ongoing training of JI recruits in nearby Carmen town.

"He (Kalim) averred that on Aug. 5, he managed to recruit eight Muslim teenagers from Alamada town and in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat," the mayor said.

"Accordingly, the recruits are undergoing demo farming in Barangay Malapag, Carmen. It's only a front, the trainers are injecting doctrines of JI," Tan said.

Policemen, led by Midsayap police chief Supt. Chino Mamburan, arrested Kalim along with Michael King Arania Yap last week in front of the Land Bank office in Midsayap for extorting protection money from Tan.

Tan said on Sept. 5, Kalim attended an Islamic symposium hosted by Uztads Morshed Mano in Barangay Malingao in Midsayap.

"He attested that Mano is a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and is a principal suspect in a series of bomb attacks in Kabacan and nearby cities," Tan said.

But the mayor also denied reports that some of those recruited are students of the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan.

Earlier, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, a known critic of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, ordered an investigation of the reported JI training in his province.

In another development, a ranking Marine official confirmed some members of the MILF are coddling the group of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani, who is on the run in Maguindanao province.

But Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the Philippine Marines 2nd Brigade and the government's Adhoc Joint Action Group (AHJAC) chair, said in a phone interview that rebel Commander Kagui Samir, the brother of late rebel leader Hashim Salamat, was not included in their list, contrary to earlier reports.

The AHJAC is composed of representatives from the government and MILF and is tasked with interdicting terrorists and kidnappers.

Dolorfino made the clarification following a published military intelligence report that Samir Salamat provided refuge to Janjalani. *Jeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

3 more doctors leaving Negros hospital for US

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE NEGROS Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH) will lose three more doctors who are leaving to the United States to work as nurses.

This was learned from Provincial Health Officer Ely Villapando who said that the three physicians would leave "anytime" soon.

He said there are 43 doctors at the NOPH, a far cry from the needed 70 to 80 physicians. The hospital has a bed capacity of 250 but personnel are attending to 350 to 380 patients at any given time.

Early this year, six NOPH doctors left the government-run hospital to work as nurses abroad apparently enticed by much bigger pay.

With the three leaving, Villapando said the problem on the lack of doctors would be aggravated. It would worsen in the coming days, considering that only seven NOPH doctors have not indicated any interest in taking up nursing course.

"The rest are either nurses already or still taking up the course," Villapando said, without giving specifics as to how many were still studying and how many were already nurses.

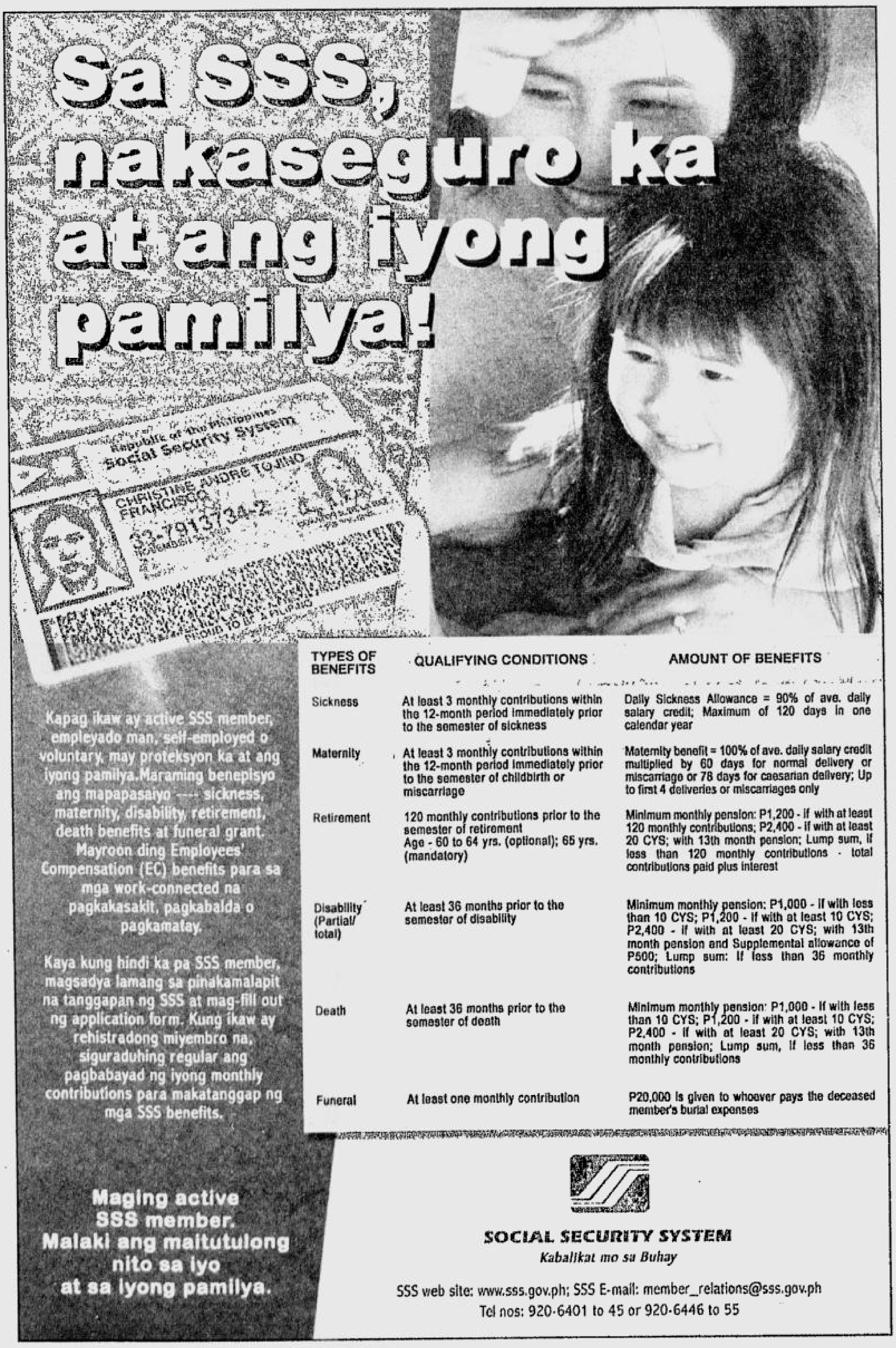
But, he added, he was sure that eventually, these doctors would leave the government-run hospital.

"That is certain. In the first place, they are doctors already. But why they wanted to become nurses? The answer is obvious," Villapando said.

He said that by 2006 to 2007, NOPH will have a serious problem on the scarcity of doctors.

Villapando said these doctors should not be blamed, "because they wanted to ensure a better future and security for their families, their children."

He said some government doctors are even receiving a little over P15,000 a month, while in the United States, a nurse could earn P200,000 to P300,000 monthly. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*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Republic of the Philippines
Social Security System
33-7913734-2

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Maternity	At least 3 monthly contributions within the 12-month period immediately prior to the semester of childbirth or miscarriage	Maternity benefit = 100% of ave. daily salary credit multiplied by 60 days for normal delivery or miscarriage or 78 days for caesarian delivery; Up to first 4 deliveries or miscarriages only
Retirement	120 monthly contributions prior to the semester of retirement Age - 60 to 64 yrs. (optional); 65 yrs. (mandatory)	Minimum monthly pension: P1,200 - if with at least 120 monthly contributions; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension; Lump sum, if less than 120 monthly contributions - total contributions paid plus interest
Disability (Partial/ total)	At least 36 months prior to the semester of disability	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension and Supplemental allowance of P500; Lump sum: If less than 36 monthly contributions
Death	At least 36 months prior to the semester of death	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension; Lump sum, if less than 36 monthly contributions
Funeral	At least one monthly contribution	P20,000 is given to whoever pays the deceased member's burial expenses

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WIND POWER REUTERS
Villagers walk past windmills that generate power. The windmills were built along the beach in Bangui, Ilocos Norte. The country, which buys nearly all its oil requirements, is turning to alternative energy and indigenous resources to cut its import bill.

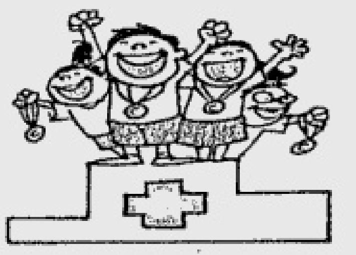
ROUNDUP

More meningo deaths

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A 30-year-old woman from Nueva Ecija was believed to have died from meningococcemia on Sept. 10, bringing to six the number of suspected victims of the disease since January in Central Luzon. Dr. Juvencio Ordoña, regional director of the Department of Health, said the woman, a resident of Laur town, died at the Paulino Garcia Hospital in Cabanatuan City. She showed symptoms like fever and rashes on her skin, he said. Ordoña said the region has so far recorded two suspected meningococcemia fatalities in Nueva Ecija, two in Bulacan and a case each in Bataan and Pampanga.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

First aid olympics



THE LAGUNA chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross bested the Invitational First Aid Olympics for Public School Junior First Aiders hosted by the Quezon City Red Cross Chapter in celebration of the World First Aid Day last Sept. 10, according to a news release. The Laguna Red Cross Team bagged the top place over 12 participating Red Cross Teams in this First Aid Olympics. The team is composed of staff coach Hazel Lope, coach Joanne Marasigan, team leader Clark Suerte, and members Mikko Andrew Alano, Redeemer Raynard Galivo, Sarah Janine Esguerra, Thea Fabillan, Martin Sebastian Elento, Colleen Claire Ladanga, Angelika Ramos and Krizza Mae Zoleta. They are Grade 5 pupils of Pila Central Elementary School, Pila, Laguna.

Laguna gang leader killed

CALAMBA CITY—The suspected leader of a notorious Laguna-based robbery syndicate, which held up an appliance store owned by Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro last month, was killed in an encounter with police in San Pedro, Laguna late Monday afternoon. Laguna police director Senior Supt. Federico Terte identified the slain suspect as Arnel Verzosa, alias Boy Tigas, alleged leader of the dreaded "Tigas Group," which was behind the robbery incidents in San Pedro, Biñan, Cabuyao and Sta. Rosa. Terte said elements of the San Pedro police led by its chief, Supt. Sergio Dimandal, swooped down on the safehouse of the gang in Sitio Pitong Gatanga, Barangay San Vicente after one of the group's victims appeared at the police station and filed a complaint against the suspects. Three of Verzosa's men, however, were able to escape during the shootout.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Crab shells for polvoron

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Crab shell wastes can now be turned into a delicacy known as *polvoron*, according to the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology. The DOST Southern Tagalog said in a press report that Prof. Viden Elpos of the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College in Concepcion, Iloilo had conducted a study on the acceptability of *polvoron* made from the carapace of different crab species. The crab carapace was soaked in clean freshwater for 10 minutes, drained and dried for 10 days for easy pounding and grinding. Toasted crab carapace flour and all-purpose flour were mixed in a bowl. Other ingredients were then added in a butter solution and mixed. The *polvoron* prepared from mud crab and blue crab carapace has a selling price of P1.25 per piece and gives higher rate of return or profit compared with that of the other crab species.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P. Garcia; 69

MANAOAG, Pangasinan—Vice Mayor Pedrito Garcia died on Tuesday after a massive stroke at the Region I Medical Center in Dagupan City. He was 69. Garcia was a former councilor and a three-term mayor of this town before he ran and won as vice mayor in 2004. His remains lie at the family's home in Barangay Sapang here.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Aragoncillo served on the staff of Clinton, Cheney, Rice

By Norman Bordadora and Nelson F. Flores

LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO, AN intelligence analyst of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, gave US authorities a copy of the "Hello Garci" tapes weeks before Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye presented copies of the controversial recordings at a news conference in June, according to the opposition.

Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino, a former police senior superintendent, were arrested in the United States on Saturday on espionage charges.

A source from the opposition yesterday told the INQUIRER that a representative of former President Joseph Estrada gave Aragoncillo a copy of the "Hello Garci" tapes for the appreciation of US authorities and possible authentication by their experts.

The tapes refer to the wiretapped conversations in which President Macapagal-Arroyo supposedly ordered former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig last year's presidential election in her favor.

"According to Lean (Aragoncillo), it seemed that the US authorities were convinced that the tapes were authentic and that it was (President Macapagal-Arroyo) on those tapes," the source said in an interview.

The representative was supposedly former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales, who promptly denied the allegation.

But Morales admitted to casually knowing Aragoncillo.

"We were introduced casually in a social gathering. I don't remember when," Morales told the INQUIRER.

Asked about the allegation that he delivered a copy of the "Garci tapes" to Aragoncillo on behalf of Estrada in March 2005, Morales said: "I don't think there already was a Garci tape at that time."

A check with Bureau of Immigration sources showed that a certain Horacio Morales left for the US East Coast on March 28, 2005 on Northwest Airlines Flight 072.

Clinton's aide

The INQUIRER source said Aragoncillo had been a friend of Estrada's since they were introduced to each other by US President Bill Clinton when the then Philippine leader went to Washington for a state visit early during his term as president.

Aragoncillo was then a sergeant in the US Marines and was an aide to Clinton when the US leader introduced him to Estrada.

"They've been friends since that meeting. Erap suddenly had a Filipino contact in the White House," the source said.

Estrada knew Aragoncillo

Estrada yesterday said he knew Aragoncillo.

In a statement, Estrada said he met Aragoncillo together with other Filipino-Americans working in the White House for the Clinton administration during his state visit in 1999.

He described his relationship with Aragoncillo as "cordial." The former President said he again met Aragoncillo and other "*balikbayan*" when they paid him a visit in Malacañang some time thereafter.

Estrada, however, said that he had no knowledge of any illegal activity of Aragoncillo.

He said he could not understand why his name was being dragged over the issue when he was already detained for four years on plunder and perjury charges.

"*Wala naman akong* contact *sa kanya o kay* Michael Ray Aquino *na aking inaanak* (I no longer have any contact with him or Michael Ray Aquino, who is my godson)," Estrada said.

After his stint as an aide in the White House, Aragoncillo served on the staff of US Vice President Dick Cheney and on the staff of Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice.

Visit to Veteran's hospital

The source added that following Estrada's removal from Malacañang in January 2001, Aragoncillo visited the former President at his previous detention center at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Apparently, Aragoncillo and Estrada maintained correspondence even after they both left the seats of power—in the United States and in the Philippines, respectively.

"I was one of those who were able to read the briefing papers on the Philippines sent by Lean from the state department to Erap, who was still being held at Veterans' at that time. That was around 2002," the source said.

The source said the briefing papers contained information on political developments in countries like the Philippines and how the state department saw these.

"He doesn't belong to the (US Federal Bureau of Investigation). He's actually in the employ of the US State Department. This is the reason why he has access to top level information," the source said.

Extradition for 3 execs in spy case, says DOJ

From page A1

who transmitted it to a "former national level public official," a "current high level public official," and a "second high level public official."

Without naming the three officials, Gonzalez said the government—bound as it is by the US-RP extradition treaty—would have no recourse but to turn over the three officials to US authorities.

He declined to name the three officials until after the indictment of Aquino and Aragoncillo.

Even so, Lacson yesterday voiced confidence that he and Aquino would hurdle charges that they conspired to obtain classified information from the FBI.

"The Philippines will only be dragged into the issue the moment warrants there are issued and they would ask for the extradition of the three officials," Gonzalez said in an interview.

Once it is established that the three officials are working with Aquino and Aragoncillo, they will be charged with being "part of the conspiracy' in violating US laws," the justice secretary said.

Complications

But legal complications may arise if the three officials are facing criminal, civil or other cases in the Philippines.

"That will now depend on our policies ... It's up to us to determine which would be prioritized ... I would think that the case here with us should be given priority," he said.

Gonzalez confirmed a meeting between him and US Embassy legal attaché Jeff Cole, who provided the DOJ with "some documents" on the espionage issue.

The FBI complaint said Aquino sent an e-mail to a "high level" public official in January, in which he said that Aragoncillo had wanted to talk to the official "to give you some updates on the political situation in the country."

The complaint quoted Aquino as saying that "a change in leadership is boiling and that it is just a matter of time."

Coup rumors have been hounding the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo since she was accused of rigging last year's presidential elections.

In New York, Malacañang distanced Ms Arroyo from the case of Aquino.

Secondary

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had little time to dwell on the arrest of Aquino, which was timed with her arrival in New York for her engagement in the United Nation's 60th anniversary.

"She is here to look for more investments, create more jobs and improve the economy. This case of Michael Ray Aquino is only secondary ... it is a legal matter. The President is not concerned about police matters," Bunye said at a press conference at the Philippine Center in New York.

But Bunye said the Philippine government was duty-bound to protect one of its citizens.

"We can't do anything other than to ensure that his rights, like any ordinary Filipino citizen, are protected. The Philippine government is committed to provide him with all the legal assistance necessary and appropriate under circumstances. Our immediate action right now is to see to it that his minimum rights are observed," the press secretary said.

Incommunicado

In Manila, Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said the Department of Foreign Affairs was bound by the Migrant Workers' Act to provide assistance to Aquino.

Aquino is being held incommunicado in New Jersey and the Philippine Consulate in New York has yet to initiate contact with him five days after his arrest.

He will not be arraigned just yet, and will face the judge on Sept. 21 in a "detention" hearing, according to a Philippine official in New York.

Unsealed

Ricardo Diaz, chief of the Interpol Division of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), said the FBI was set to indict next week the three ranking officials who allegedly received the information illegally obtained by Aquino.

Diaz did not identify the officials.

"The FBI said the three officials—'a current high ranking official, a former high ranking official and a second-level high ranking official'—would be included in the charge sheet but their identities would only be divulged once the case is unsealed," Diaz said.

The NBI said the FBI would "unseal" the classified documents on Sept. 22, or right after a hearing at a US court scheduled the day before.

Diaz explained that the FBI "was not really after the significance of the documents but by the manner these were obtained."

"For all we know the documents only contain an apple pie recipe. Anyway, to determine whether a document is a top secret or not is part of sovereignty ... but for the FBI, what matters most was that the information was taken in an illegal manner," he told reporters.

Not liable

Lacson, a vocal critic of the Arroyo administration, said he and Aquino could not be held liable for such charges because neither one of them fell under the category of a foreign agent referred to in the United States Code.

The US Code punishes a US employee or officer, who knowingly communicates classified information to an agent or a representative of a foreign government.

"Aquino is not a foreign agent or a representative of the Philippines. He's not aware that [what he's passed on] are classified information and if at all, these did not affect the security of the US," Lacson said in a phone interview.

"So the elements are absent to constitute a commission of the crime. He can easily acquit himself of the charges leveled against him," he added.

The senator, who had admitted receiving e-mails from Aquino mostly consisting of compilations of articles about the Philippines' political situation, said he could not be considered a foreign agent.

"As can be gleaned from the US Code, there's no violation. Not by Aquino, not by me. The law punishes the communication of a classified information to a foreign agent, which I'm not, and which Aquino is not," he said.

"Under the US law, they can charge us. But will it prosper? If they charge us, are we going to be extradited?" he added. "We're confident we can't be charged."

Lacson also voiced doubts he could be extradited to the United States for espionage, which he said is not among the common crimes defined in the extradition treaty between Manila and Washington.

Lacson said he was certain that the arrest of Aquino was a legitimate operation of the FBI, but bewailed the NBI and the DOJ for taking advantage of it to attack him.

Reacting to Lacson's statement that the case had legal flaws that Aquino could easily wiggle out, Gonzalez said public sentiment in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center would make it hard for the accused to escape prosecution.

"To some extent, the Americans are paranoid already because of 9/11, that will weigh heavily on the case ... I don't suppose the Americans will move without evidence," he said.

Profiling

An official of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said it would be difficult to "comment intelligently" on what sort of confidential information about Filipino leaders the US government has, and which was allegedly illegally obtained by Aquino.

But the official, who requested anonymity, said "profiling" was commonly practiced by governments.

"(Profiling) is normal, getting information on that country's power brokers, kingmakers, and why are they influential. That is done so that you already know in case a person comes to power and you could already have projections," the DFA official said.

He said that while he was posted overseas, he did some profiling too. "Now and then, we'd give personality profiles." *With reports from Tina G. Santos and Nikko Dizon in Manila and Michael Lim Ubac in New York*

United States of America v. Leandro Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino

(The Inquirer is running the criminal complaint filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation against Michael Ray Aquino, a former officer of the Philippine National Police, and Leandro Aragoncillo, an FBI intelligence analyst, who were arrested Saturday in the United States on espionage charges.

PDI Research downloaded the 17-page complaint from the website of the US Department of Justice.

The names of the three Philippine officials were deleted in the complaint posted on the website.)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
-----------------------------x
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
:
v. :
: Magistrate No. 05-3096 (PS)
LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO, :
a/k/a "Juan Miguel" :
:
-and- :
:
MICHAEL RAY AQUINO. :
a/k/a "Ninoy" :
-----------------------------x

I, the undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On the dates set forth below, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendants Leandro Aragoncillo, a/k/a "Juan Miguel," and Michael Ray Aquino, a/k/a "Ninoy," did:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

Edward Finnegan, Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, September 9, 2005, in the District of New Jersey
HONORABLE PATTY SHWARTZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Signature of Judicial Officer

- 2 -

Attachment A
Count 1

1. From in or about September 2004 to on or about September 12, 2005, at Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendants

LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO,
a/k/a "Juan Miguel," and
MICHAEL RAY AQUINO,
a/k/a "Ninoy,"

did knowingly and willfully conspire and agree with each other and others to defraud the United States by impeding, impairing, obstructing, and defeating the government's lawful function in protecting classified information against unauthorized disclosure.

2. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect its object, defendants committed the following overt acts were committed in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere: a. On or about January 2, 2005, defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO sent a message to a public official in the Philippines about LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO and provided sensitive information furnished by ARAGONCILLO.

b. On or about February 24, 2005, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO transmitted classified information from a computer in New Jersey to a public official in the Philippines.

c. On or about February 24, 2005, defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO transmitted classified information to defendant ARAGONCILLO at a computer in New Jersey. In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371

Count 2

From in or about September 2004 to on or about September 12, 2005, at Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendants

LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO,
a/k/a "Juan Miguel," and
MICHAEL RAY AQUINO,
a/k/a "Ninoy,"

did knowingly act in the United States as agents of a foreign government, namely, as agents subject to the direction and

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control of a foreign official, without prior notification to the Attorney General, as required by law. In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 951 and 2.

Count 3

From in or about September 2004 to on or about September 12, 2005, at Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO,
a/k/a "Juan Miguel,"

having knowingly accessed a computer without authorization and exceeding authorized access, and by means of such conduct having obtained information that has been determined by the United States Government pursuant to an Executive order or statute to require protection against unauthorized disclosure for reasons of national defense or foreign relations, with reason to believe that such information so obtained could be used to the injury of the United States, did willfully communicate, deliver, transmit, and cause to be communicated, delivered and transmitted to any person not entitled to receive it, and did willfully retain the same and fail to deliver it to the officer or employee of the United States entitled to receive it.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1030 and 2.

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ATTACHMENT B

I, Edward Finnegan, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), having conducted an investigation and having spoken with other individuals and reviewed reports and documents, have knowledge of the facts provided below. Since this Affidavit is submitted for the purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint and search warrant, I have not included each and every fact known by the government concerning this investigation. Statements attributed to individuals are provided in substance and in part.

Summary of the Investigation

1. Beginning in or about late July 2005, the FBI initiated an investigation concerning defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO's use of the FBI's internal computer database called the Automated Case System ("ACS"). As set forth more fully below, the investigation has revealed the following: Beginning as early as September 2004 and continuing to the present, defendant ARAGONCILLO improperly accessed, printed and downloaded classified documents and information from ACS relating to the Republic of the Philippines. The investigation has further revealed that commencing as early as January 2005, defendant ARAGONCILLO transmitted classified information and documents by telephone, text messages, and e-mail to, among others, various current and former high-level public officials of the Philippines, including, among others, defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO.

Background Information Relating to the Defendants

2. Defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO resides at 102 Branchwood Drive, Woodbury, New Jersey. Beginning in or about July 2004, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO was hired by the FBI to work as an intelligence analyst at the Fort Monmouth Information Technology Center (the "FMITC"). As an intelligence analyst at the FMITC, defendant ARAGONCILLO had top secret security clearance, and access to ACS. ACS is a database containing, among other things, classified information and documents from the FBI and other departments.

3. Pursuant to Executive Order 12958, as amended by Executive Order 13292, national security information is classified as "Top Secret," "Secret" or "Confidential." The designation "Top Secret" applies to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. The

- 5 -

designation "Secret" applies to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to national security. The designation "Confidential" applies to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause damage to national security. Classified information, of any designation, may only be shared with persons determined by an appropriate U.S. government official to be eligible for access to classified information, who have signed an approved non-disclosure agreement and who possess a need to know. If a person is not eligible to receive classified information, classified information may not be disclosed to that person.

4. Defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO is a citizen of the Philippines, and resides in Jamaica, Queens, New York. Defendant AQUINO formerly served as the Deputy Director of the Philippines National Police -- Intelligence Group, and Senior Superintendent of the now-disbanded Philippines Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force until 2001. On or about July 7, 2001, defendant AQUINO entered the United States on a tourist visa. As described more fully below, defendant AQUINO was arrested by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") for overstaying that tourist visa on or about March 7, 2005.

5. A review of records maintained by the Attorney General reveals that defendants LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO or MICHAEL RAY AQUINO have not provided the information to be foreign agents as required by 28 C.F.R. § 73 et seq. The Initiation of the Investigation

6. Records obtained from ICE indicate that defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO was arrested by ICE agents on or about March 7, 2005, as an overstay. On the day after defendant AQUINO's arrest, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO met with ICE agents at ICE's offices located in New York City. ARAGONCILLO identified himself to the ICE agents as an FBI employee and personal friend of defendant AQUINO. Subsequently, defendant ARAGONCILLO called the ICE agents assigned to defendant AQUINO's case to inquire about the status of their investigation. After that call, an ICE agent notified the FBI about defendant ARAGONCILLO's contact with ICE regarding defendant AQUINO.

7. In or around April 2005, after learning of defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO's involvement in defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO's ICE matter, the FBI, among other things, commenced an audit of defendant ARAGONCILLO's ACS usage. That audit[1]

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[1] These keyword searches specifically included the names of defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO and the other high-level public officials referenced below.

[2] "0922" corresponds to the date "September 22," which is the day and month of defendant ARAGONCILLO birthdate.

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revealed that defendant ARAGONCILLO had conducted extensive keyword searches relating to the Philippines.[1] Furthermore, the audit revealed that from between on or about May 1, 2005, through on or about August 15, 2005, defendant ARAGONCILLO either printed or downloaded 101 classified documents relating to the subject, of which 37 were classified at the "Secret" level.

8. According to defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO's supervisors at the FMITC, defendant ARAGONCILLO was not authorized to access, view, print or download classified information relating to the Philippines; that subject fell outside the scope of his assignments. Furthermore, defendant ARAGONCILLO did not request permission to do analytical research on the Philippines or the related subjects set forth above. The Defendants' E-mail and Internet Accounts

9. In addition to the ACS audit described above, the FBI conducted a review of defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO's use of dedicated Internet computers at the FMITC (the "Internet Computers"). This review showed that defendant ARAGONCILLO routinely used the Internet Computers to access two web-based email accounts maintained by Hotmail, including accounts named laragoncillo@hotmail.com and juan_miguel0922@hotmail.com (the "Aragoncillo Hotmail Account") (sometimes collectively referred to as the "Aragoncillo Hotmail Accounts").[2] The records also showed that defendant ARAGONCILLO accessed an additional account maintained by Yahoo! from the Internet Computers bearing the name juan_miguel0922@yahoo.com (the "Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account").

10. Records obtained from Hotmail indicate that defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO's name was used to register laragoncillo@hotmail.com. Furthermore, the records reveal that during the months of May through August 2005, the Aragoncillo Hotmail Accounts were accessed from IP addresses assigned to the FMITC, and to a Comcast account assigned to defendant

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ARAGONCILLO's home, and that was subscribed to by defendant Aragoncillo's wife.

11. Records obtained from Yahoo! reveal that the juan_miguel0922@yahoo.com account (the Aragoncillo Yahoo! Account) was accessed from the same set of IP addresses used to access the Aragoncillo Hotmail Accounts, that is, IP addresses assigned to the FMITC and defendant ARAGONCILLO's home.

12. Records obtained from Yahoo! further reveal that defendant MICHAEL RAY AQUINO maintains a Yahoo! e-mail account that is assigned the name ninoy88@yahoo.com, and account holder name "Michael Ray Aquino" (the "Aquino Yahoo! Account"). The Other Public Officials

13. Additional records obtained from Hotmail and Yahoo! reveal that as early as January 2005 and continuing through September 2005, defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO used the ARAGONCILLO Hotmail and Yahoo! Accounts to transmit classified documents and information to defendant AQUINO, and various current and former public officials of the Philippines, including the following individuals:

a. A former high-level national public official ("Public Official #1);
b. A current high-level national public official ("Public Official #2");
c. A second current high-level national public official ("Public Official #3") (sometimes collectively referred to as the "Public Officials").

Aquino's Introduction of Argoncillo to the Public Officials

14. Records from Yahoo! reveal that on or about January 2, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aquino Yahoo! Account to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account along with the following message introducing defendant LEANDRO ARAGONCILLO to Public Official #2:

Sir, The other day, Leandro "Lean" Aragoncillo called me. He is the US Marine friend . . . . He already resigned from the USM and is now with the new intelligence unit . . he is about to finish his training at the FBI NA

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in Quantico, Virginia.

He wants to talk to you and give you some updates on the political situation in the country. . . .

He alleged that last Tuesday during a briefing . . . the recent political situation in the Philippines was discussed. It was the first time that he heard about a briefing on the Philippine situation,

He claimed that a change in leadership is boiling and that it is just a matter of time .

He gave me the following information: . . .

These are all subject to confirmation but I think there's nothing wrong if we give it a try to confirm/check especially if this will be a catalyst for change in our country.

The number of Lean Aragoncillo is . . He is available after 5:00P.M. EST on Tuesday after his class.

For your information.
Ninoy

Hotmail and Yahoo! records reveal that following this introduction, defendant ARAGONCILLO regularly communicated with, and transmitted classified documents and information utilizing the ARAGONCILLO Hotmail and Yahoo! Accounts to defendant AQUINO and the Public Officials via e-mail, telephone and text messages as set forth more fully below. Aragoncillo's Transmission of Classified Materials to Defendant Aquino and the Public Officials Transmission #1

15. Records from Hotmail reveal that on or about January 18, 2005, an e-mail was sent from the Aragoncillo Hotmail Account, along with approximately ten attachments (the "January 18th Classified Documents"), to Public Official #2's Yahoo! Account and the following message:

[Public Official #2].

Records reveal that the titles and dates of the January 18th Classified Documents correspond to at least four documents classified at the "Confidential" and "Secret" levels.

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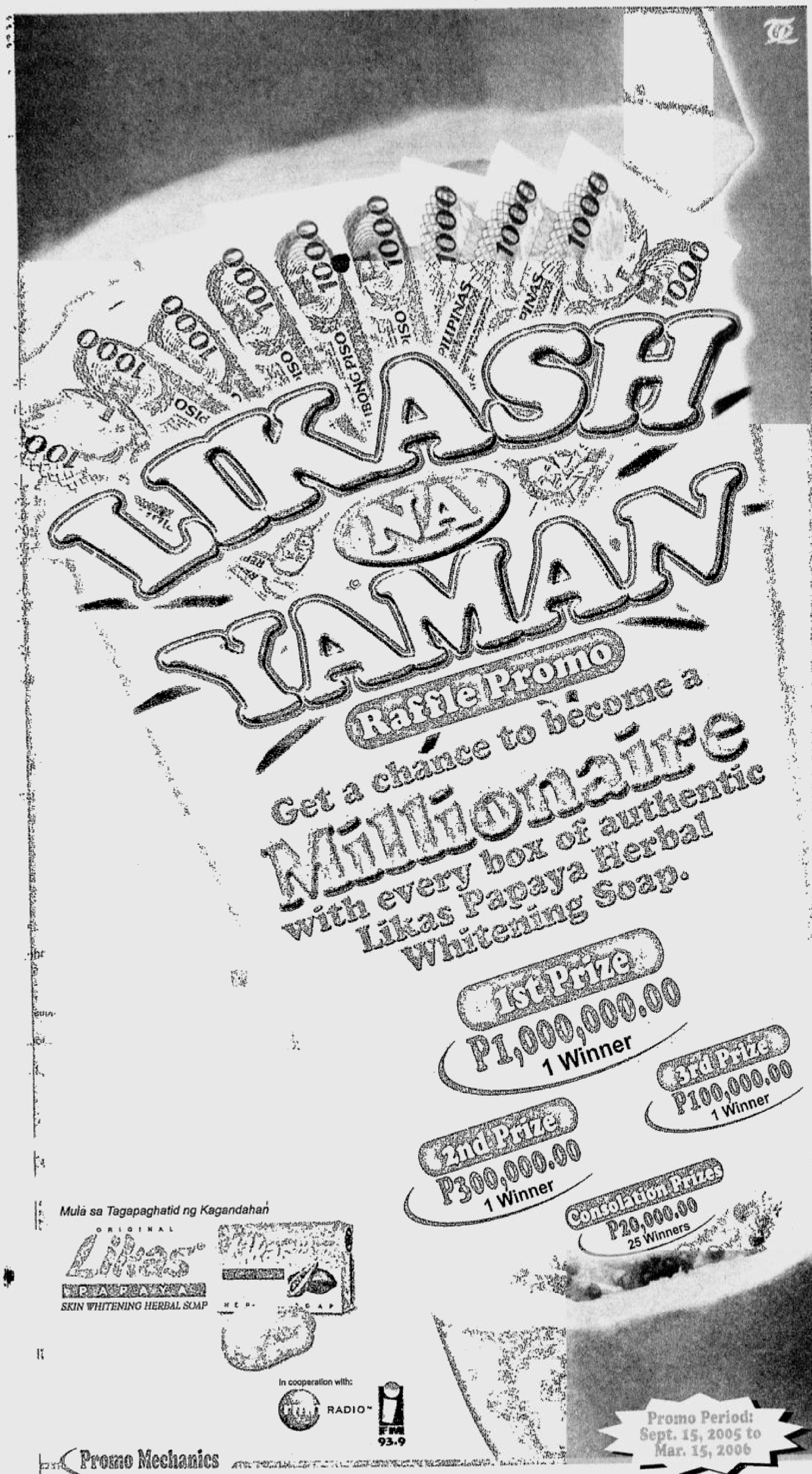
(To be continued tomorrow)


LIKASH NA YAMAN
Raffle Promo
Get a chance to become a Millionaire with every box of authentic Likas Papaya Herbal Whitening Soap.
1st Prize P1,000,000.00 1 Winner
2nd Prize P300,000.00 1 Winner
3rd Prize P100,000.00 1 Winner
Consolation Prizes P20,000.00 25 Winners
Mula sa Tagapaghatid ng Kagandahan
Original Likas Papaya Skin Whitening Herbal Soap
In cooperation with:
RADIO
FM 93.9
Promo Period: Sept. 15, 2005 to Mar. 15, 2006

Promo Mechanics

1. For every box of authentic Likas Papaya Herbal Whitening Soap bought within the promo period (from Sept. 15, 2005 - Mar. 15, 2006) at any reputable supermarket, department store or grocery store (like SM Supermarkets/Department Stores, Watsons, Robinsons, Shopwise, Rustans or other leading supermarkets/department stores) nationwide, entitles the consumer ONE (1) entry in the "Likash na Yaman" Raffle Promo.

2. Consumer can now have the chance to win any of the prizes in the draw.
1 winner of P 1,000,000 (1st Prize)
1 winner of P 300,000 (2nd Prize)
1 winner of P 100,000 (3rd Prize)
25 winners of P 20,000 (Consolation Prizes)

3. Write on the box of Likas your name, address, telephone/mobile numbers (if any), signature including the name and branch outlet, date and time the product was purchased.
Cristina Manalo
2428 C. Havana St., Sta. Ana, Manila
589-5379 / 0916-6649772
SM Supermarket, Manila
Sept. 27, 2005
3:22 P.M.

4. In case the store has no cash register but with official receipt, consumer must write on the entry the date and O.R. number of the receipt.
Cristina Manalo
2428 C. Havana St., Sta. Ana, Manila
589-5379 / 0916-6649772
EC Convenience Store
Oct. 15, 2005
O.R. 1922

5. Name and branch outlet, date and time the product was purchased / O.R. (number) are contained in the product receipt. Consumer must keep his/her receipt/s for future verification.

6. Place the box of Likas in a white legal sized envelope (1 box per envelope). Seal the envelope and mail it to:
"Likash na Yaman"
Raffle Promo
c/o RMN Networks
4/F State Condominium 1
Salcedo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City, Philippines

Or simply drop at designated drop boxes located at any RMN Networks station and reputable store nationwide.

7. Only entries bearing authentic and intact box of Likas Papaya shall be qualified in the promo (any fake and damaged box will be disqualified). **BEWARE OF FAKES! BUY ONLY ORIGINAL LIKAS PAPAYA HERBAL WHITENING SOAP AT ANY REPUTABLE STORE.**

8. Grand draw will be held on Mar. 26, 2006 at SM Megamall at 3 P.M.

9. Only entries received on or before Mar. 21, 2006 shall be included in the draw.

10. The draw will be conducted in the presence of a DOH-BFAD and Trinidad Cosmetics Laboratory, Inc. (TCLI) representative.

11. Winners can only win once. If the winner's name is drawn more than once, winner shall take home the prize of a higher value.

12. Winners will be notified by phone and telegram and shall be published in any leading newspaper.

13. In claiming the prize, winner must present two (2) valid IDs (Company I.D., SSS, TIN, Driver's License, etc...) at RMN Networks, 4/F State Condominium 1 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City together with the registered letter/notice and the receipt of purchase. (Photocopied and fake receipts will not be acknowledged.) Data indicated in the receipt (name and branch outlet, date and time of purchase / O.R. number) should match with the data (name and branch outlet, date and time of purchase / O.R. number) entered in the winning Likas entry-box.

14. Winners must shoulder travel expenses in the course of claiming their prizes.

15. If the prize is to be claimed by a representative, he/she must present two (2) valid IDs (Company I.D., SSS, TIN, Driver's License, etc...) together with registered letter/notice, the letter of authority (duly signed by the winner), two (2) valid IDs of the winner and receipt of purchase.

16. All Likas boxes are subject to prize code verification upon redemption of prizes.

17. All prizes are tax-free and non-transferable.

18. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from the receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of TCLI with the approval of DOH-BFAD.

19. Anyone can join the promo except the employees of TCLI, its participating outlets, authorized suppliers and printers, dealers/distributors, TCLI advertising agency, DOH-BFAD, RMN Networks employees including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity.

20. Promo runs from September 15, 2005 - March 15, 2006 only.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 1087, series of 2005.

WARNING: ONLY AUTHENTIC AND ORIGINAL LIKAS PAPAYA SHALL BE QUALIFIED IN THE PROMO. SO, BEWARE OF FAKES! BUY ONLY THE ORIGINAL LIKAS PAPAYA HERBAL WHITENING SOAP!

Church urges probe of '04 polls

From page A1

also said it was time for the country to move forward, warning "excessive politicking" had caused divisions in the country and worsened the drift toward poverty. The council did not specify how the search for truth should be conducted. The prelates said it was up to the people to decide this.

The election watchdog of the 119-member CBCP said in its statement that it was dismayed by the scuttling of the impeachment complaints on technicalities.

"The people's right to know the truth is the essence of any rule of law," the PPCRV said.

Uncovering the truth should actually be to the President's liking considering her dwindling popularity and credibility, it said.

"It is therefore in the best interest of any government official to clarify any allegation in order to regain this trust, the PPCRV said."

CBCP faction

A Church insider said the permanent council's statement "more or less" reflected key suggestions of a militant faction of the CBCP that gathered in Manila before the prelates' policy-making group sat down for four hours on Tuesday to consider the implications of the killing of the impeachment complaints in Congress.

The faction, assembled by a former top CBCP official, was pushing for Ms Arroyo's greater accountability while urging politicians to address the serious problem of poverty, the source said.

Bishop Socrates Villegas of Bataan, a close associate of Cardinal Sin, also said yesterday that Ms Arroyo must be held accountable for the nation's political turmoil.

Villegas said forgiveness should not be the end to Ms Arroyo's July apology for phoning an election official during the 2004 elections, a move she had described as a "lapse in judgment." However, she denied manipulating the vote.

Speaking in Filipino in a strongly worded homily at the Balanga Cathedral, Villegas said the President was accountable under the laws of God and that many questions surrounding last year's elections remained unanswered.

Politics of accommodation

It was the first time that Villegas spoke out against Ms Arroyo since the release of the "Hello, Garci" tapes in June that triggered the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old presidency.

Unknown to many, Villegas went to Malacañang in July and told the embattled President that it was time for her to go, at least two highly reliable sources had told the INQUIRER in separate interviews.

In his homily, the prelate lamented what he called the "politics of accommodation" that continued under the Arroyo administration.

"Reforms in government following the norms of morality are being ignored by the President," he said. "Patronage politics continues for the few at the expense of the greater number."

Picking up the theme from the latest CBCP statement, Villegas said jobs and alleviation of poverty were more important in the countryside than the political squabbles involving the rich and the powerful in Manila.

"Hunger and and intense poverty are driving the people away from politics, not because they are less patriotic," Villegas said. "Let us search for the truth in the last election but lets us not pretend to be blind to the reality of hunger and poverty, he added."

Also yesterday, Vice President Noli de Castro said Filipinos should heed the bishops' declaration that the search for truth should continue "through peaceful, legal and constitutional means." *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Fil-Am pedophile . . .

From page A1

ing a vacation to the Philippines, according to court documents.

The boys were identified through a joint investigation by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and the Philippine National Police.

The ruling came a day after another San Diego man, who made a sex tape with a teenage girl while visiting the Philippines in 2002, was sentenced to three years in federal prison.

Bernard Lawrence Russell, 38, was ordered to pay $25,000 to "benefit Filipino victims of child exploitation," under a plea agreement in San Diego federal court.

A San Diego judge ordered Russell to stay away from children, give up his passport and have his telephone and computer use monitored.

Russell admitted in April that he traveled to the Philippines in 2002 with the intent to have sex with a child.

Two girls

Two girls, ages 13 and 14, said Russell paid them $30 and $20, respectively, to have sex, according to court documents.

Authorities also seized 32 images of child pornography during a search of Russell's home in 2003.

Datan's case was prosecuted under the Protect Act of 2003, which boosted penalties for such crimes and made it easier for federal prosecutors to bring charges in sex tourism cases.

"In the 10 years prior to the Protect Act, there were only two cases prosecuted," said Virginia Kice, spokesperson of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"Since then, we've had 14 child sex tourism cases involving individuals, a number of them in Southern California."

Datan, a retired auditor, was arrested last Nov. 24 at Los Angeles International Airport by US Customs and Border Protection officers after returning from a two-month trip to the Philippines, his native country. A search of his luggage turned up hundreds of sexually explicit images of underage boys.

The day following Datan's arrest, ICE agents obtained a federal warrant to search his San Diego home where they seized Datan's collection of child pornography, including more than a dozen boxes of images of child erotica and child pornography.

"Those who trade in the exploitation of children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them," Michael Unzueta, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in San Diego, said in a news release last Nov. 19.

"ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to combat this heinous behavior both here and abroad," Unzueta said.

Dance troupe?

When ICE agents questioned Datan about the images, he said the boys were part of a Filipino dance troupe he knew through friends, according to the case affidavit. Datan said he often attended the boys' performances and stayed at a nearby hostel.

He added that the boys from the troupe would come to his hostel room following their shows to visit and shower, but he denied having any inappropriate sexual contact with them.

Datan pleaded guilty in March to engaging in illicit sexual conduct with minors and producing child pornography outside the United States.

He was sentenced in June to 17 years in federal prison and lifetime supervision.

Under an agreement with the US Attorney's Office and ICE, the international aid group World Vision will use the money Datan pays to provide two years of medical, psychological and occupational therapy for the teens, who were 14 and 15 when the crimes occurred.

"Every day children are sexually exploited by men from the United States in places like the Philippines, Cambodia and Costa Rica," said Joseph Mettimano, director of World Vision's child sex tourism prevention project.

"While the restitution cannot undo the damage that has been done, it will provide for much needed counseling and other services for some of the young boys assaulted," he said. *Reports from AP and AFP*

METRO
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Pasay, MMDA fight over intersection

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) and the Pasay City government may be headed for a collision course over the management of the traffic-choked Edsa-Taft Avenue intersection.

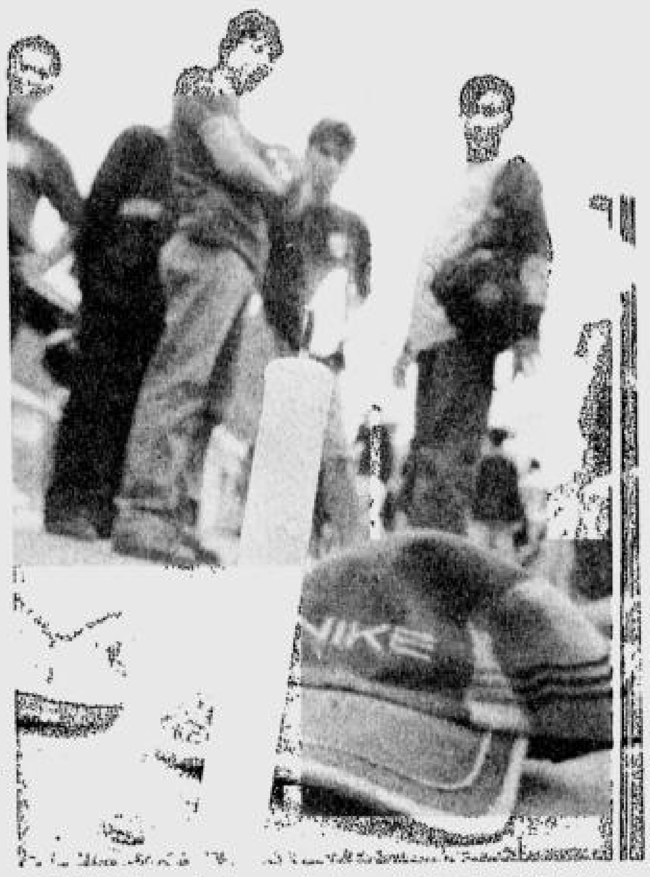
MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has ordered the agency's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) to take over traffic management at the intersection after reports that the situation at the crossing had been a day-to-day mess.

"That's a national road, and that's clearly under our mandate," said MMDA TOC Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"We will ask them to leave," he added, referring to Pasay City's traffic enforcers called "Chocolate Boys" named after the color of their uniform.

But Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said he would not allow an MMDA takeover.

"It's a violation of the law," he said, explaining that the Supreme Court had even stopped the MMDA from interfering in local traffic management. *Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy*



A CANDLE marks the spot where striker Dante Teotino fell after being shot by factory guards. ERIK ARA ZAS

Striker shot dead at Caloocan picket

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A STRIKER WAS SHOT DEAD while four others were wounded when security guards of a packaging company in Caloocan City reportedly opened fire at them late Tuesday afternoon.

"We were about to start a symposium near the factory gate when the guards started pushing and shooting at us on orders of Filipina Mandap," said Arnold Magbitang, vice president of the Schneider Packaging Company Workers Union.

Magbitang told the INQUIRER that the plant manager ordered the guards to open fire or she would dismiss them.

Police said Dante Teotino, an employee, was killed in the gunplay. Strikers said Teotino was shot in the back.

The victim was declared dead on arrival at Lourdes Hospital.

Four other strikers were wounded and were brought to an undisclosed clinic.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Mandap or any company representative but was told that nobody was around to give a statement.

Ronnie Villar, who said he was the security officer-in-charge, gave the number of one Luis Trinidad, but no one answered when the INQUIRER repeatedly called.

Caloocan police chief Senior Supt. Leo Garra said the guards involved in the incident were in police custody. He said allegations that Mandap ordered the shooting would be looked into.

"Charges would be filed against the security guards," Garra said, adding that the plant manager might also face charges if evidence is found against her.

Magbitang said it was about 5:30 p.m. when their members were about to put up placards near the gate of the factory at 86 Gen. Luis St., Kaybiga, Caloocan City, when at least 15 guards with shotguns stopped them.

Among the workers' demands were higher wages, a stop to arbitrary dismissals and social security benefits.

"Some of us get only P148 for 12 hours of work," Magbitang said.

Workers put up the picket last Aug. 7.

Probe boosts lightning theory

COULD THE "ACCIDENT" have been prevented?

Investigators of the blast inside the National Capital Region Police compound in Taguig City said they found signs of wear and tear in the wires of lightning arresters surrounding the destroyed ammunition dump.

They said that the arresters—metal rods that absorb lightning strikes—might no longer be functioning. So when lightning struck, it could have found its way to the explosives inside.

"Of five lightning arresters, two were obliterated," said one investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"One wire inside one of the remaining lightning arresters appeared burned; another was cut. We saw signs of deterioration," he said.

"The scene of the crime operation will determine whether it was the blast that destroyed the lightning arresters, or lightning did, causing them to stop functioning," he added.

Sr. Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the team investigating the blast, said ammunition dump guards heard thunder, then saw lightning before the blast. *Luige A. del Puerto*

ABS-CBN makes pitch for Noli

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEVENTY-FOUR PERCENT OF Filipinos think Vice President Noli de Castro is capable of being No. 1 should President Macapagal-Arroyo resign, according to the latest survey by the reputable Social Weather Stations (SWS).

And why not? De Castro is definitely more intelligent than ousted President Erap.

The former ABS-CBN news reader has more sense when he talks than Erap whenever he opens his mouth.

Erap would have been a good president if he didn't mix *kalokohan* with governance. He indulged too much in wining, womanizing and gambling. De Castro doesn't drink, is reportedly *ander de saya* (henpecked) and goes to bed early.

If Erap would have made a good president without his vices, De Castro would even be better because he has no vices.

* * *

I have it on good authority that ABS-CBN, the country's largest network where Noli had his star, is backing up its former news reader and commentator to replace President Arroyo.

Ever so subtly, the Lopez-owned network is imposing Noli de Castro on the people's consciousness as GMA's replacement.

My sources in the network say, GMA's downfall is "just a matter of time."

So, the network has taken back De Castro as host of the popular tele-magazine, "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

At the same time, ABS-CBN keeps covering rallies calling for GMA's resignation, making such events headline material, and interviewing opposition leaders more than administration officials.

* * *

Like the Iglesia ni Cristo, ABS-CBN fancies itself as a kingmaker since it was reportedly responsible for the election of public officials whom it had supported.

The Lopezes are interested in having De Castro installed as President because they perceive they can control their former employee and have him do their bidding.

Apart from ABS-CBN, the Lopezes also own the Manila Electric Co., the Maynilad water concession, the North Luzon Expressway, Bayantel telephone company, and many others.

The Lopezes need a powerful protector of their varied business interests.

METROBRIEFS

Deadly fall

A FORMER commercial model fell to her death 30 feet from the porch of a building in Quezon City Tuesday night in what police believe was a case of suicide. A naked Llana Llyam Lhatam, 27, plunged to the ground from the Quito Building at 235 Roosevelt Avenue, San Francisco, Del Monte, police said. Lhatam was rushed to the hospital, but she did not make it alive. The victim lived alone, away from her family in Olongapo City, police said. The victim's friends told investigators that Lhatam, whom they described as a "heavy drinker and casual drug user," had been "depressed and upset" in the last few days. Police said liquor bottles were found in her room. *DJ Yap*

Homeless in Malabon

AN ACCIDENT waiting to happen, was how community leader Rodrigo Aniban described the fire that gutted more than 300 houses in a Malabon dump at dawn yesterday. More than a thousand families lost their homes in a 4-hour fire that started a few minutes after midnight and lasted until the break of dawn. City Fire Marshall Chief Senior Insp. Rodrigo Reyes said no one was reported injured, but all the houses in the 3-hectare dump were razed to the ground. "It was bound to happen because the residents used lamps or candles," said Aniban, president of the Samahang Maralita ng Purok 1. Aniban said that they had no choice but to use these alternatives because residents had been waiting for Meralco to approve their application for an electricity lines for the past 10 years. Apart from assistance from the local office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Mayor Canuto Oreta said he would send at least six tents as temporary shelter for the victims. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Haribon forum

FIND out the secrets of Philippine plant life from the country's plant lovers and experts at 5:30 p.m. today at the Mini-theater of the Lopez Building, Meralco Center, Ortigas. A forum sponsored by Haribon, dubbed "Halamang Pinaka ... sa Paraisong Pinaka" features plant taxonomist Leonard Co, Dr. Edwin Fernando, from Forest Biological Sciences, UP Los Baños, and ethnobotanist Penny Reyes-Velasco. Admission is free. The Haribon forum is conducted monthly and tackles environmental issues. For inquiries, please contact: Lui Hugo at 433-3476 loc. 18, or 9207430. Or e-mail: advocacy@haribon.org.ph, act@haribon.org.ph.

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Baby slain in rob

SHE WAS CARRYING her baby on her lap when four armed robbers on board two motorcycles blocked their car and opened fire.Rosanna Guevarra survived the attack, but her husband Eric, who was driving the car, was shot in the left knee. Their daughter, Erica Charlene, 1, was not as lucky and was hit fatally in the head.

The Guevarras had just withdrawn money from a bank on Marcos Highway yesterday. They were on their way home when the robbers struck as their car made a turn inside UE Village, Barangay San Isidro, Cainta at around 11:30 a.m. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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What adjective means not having been read?
Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!
*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.
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(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 10 13 25 26 27 31

P5,960,511.90

Pasay, MMDA fight over intersection

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) and the Pasay City government may be headed for a collision course over the management of the traffic-choked Edsa-Taft Avenue intersection.

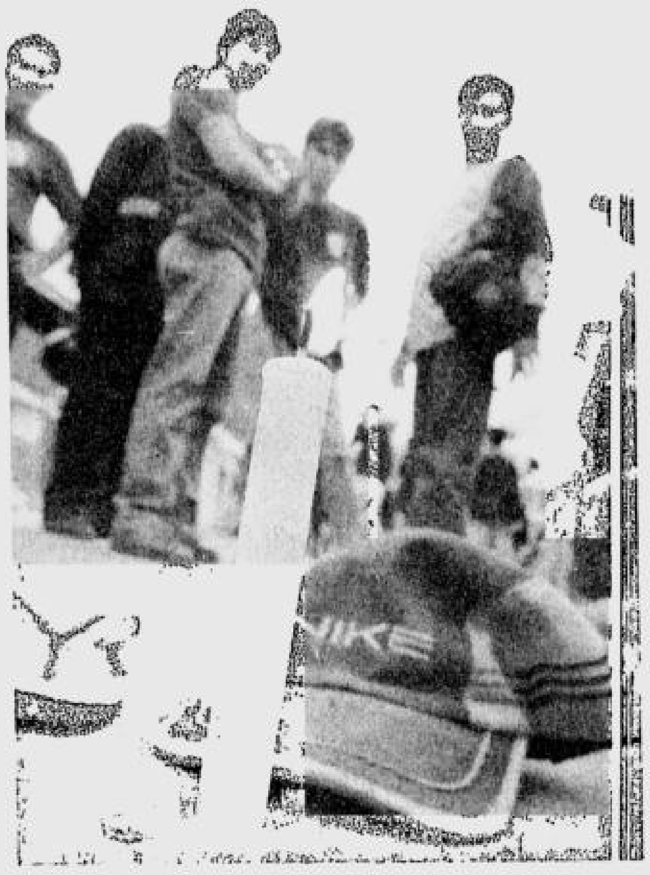
MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has ordered the agency's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) to take over traffic management at the intersection after reports that the situation at the crossing had been a day-to-day mess.

"That's a national road, and that's clearly under our mandate," said MMDA TOC Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"We will ask them to leave," he added, referring to Pasay City's traffic enforcers called "Chocolate Boys" named after the color of their uniform.

But Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said he would not allow an MMDA takeover.

"It's a violation of the law," he said, explaining that the Supreme Court had even stopped the MMDA from interfering in local traffic management. *Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy*



A CANDLE marks the spot where striker Dante Teotino fell after being shot by factory guards. ERIK ARA ZAS

Striker shot dead at Caloocan picket

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A STRIKER WAS SHOT DEAD while four others were wounded when security guards of a packaging company in Caloocan City reportedly opened fire at them late Tuesday afternoon.

"We were about to start a symposium near the factory gate when the guards started pushing and shooting at us on orders of Filipina Mandap," said Arnold Magbitang, vice president of the Schneider Packaging Company Workers Union.

Magbitang told the INQUIRER that the plant manager ordered the guards to open fire or she would dismiss them.

Police said Dante Teotino, an employee, was killed in the gunplay. Strikers said Teotino was shot in the back.

The victim was declared dead on arrival at Lourdes Hospital.

Four other strikers were wounded and were brought to an undisclosed clinic.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Mandap or any company representative but was told that nobody was around to give a statement.

Ronnie Villar, who said he was the security officer-in-charge, gave the number of one Luis Trinidad, but no one answered when the INQUIRER repeatedly called.

Caloocan police chief Senior Supt. Leo Garra said the guards involved in the incident were in police custody. He said allegations that Mandap ordered the shooting would be looked into.

"Charges would be filed against the security guards," Garra said, adding that the plant manager might also face charges if evidence is found against her.

Magbitang said it was about 5:30 p.m. when their members were about to put up placards near the gate of the factory at 86 Gen. Luis St., Kaybiga, Caloocan City, when at least 15 guards with shotguns stopped them.

Among the workers' demands were higher wages, a stop to arbitrary dismissals and social security benefits.

"Some of us get only P148 for 12 hours of work," Magbitang said.

Workers put up the picket last Aug. 7.

Probe boosts lightning theory

COULD THE "ACCIDENT" have been prevented?

Investigators of the blast inside the National Capital Region Police compound in Taguig City said they found signs of wear and tear in the wires of lightning arresters surrounding the destroyed ammunition dump.

They said that the arresters—metal rods that absorb lightning strikes—might no longer be functioning. So when lightning struck, it could have found its way to the explosives inside.

"Of five lightning arresters, two were obliterated," said one investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"One wire inside one of the remaining lightning arresters appeared burned; another was cut. We saw signs of deterioration," he said.

"The scene of the crime operation will determine whether it was the blast that destroyed the lightning arresters, or lightning did, causing them to stop functioning," he added.

Sr. Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the team investigating the blast, said ammunition dump guards heard thunder, then saw lightning before the blast. *Luige A. del Puerto*

METROBRIEFS

Deadly fall

A FORMER commercial model fell to her death 30 feet from the porch of a building in Quezon City Tuesday night in what police believe [illegible] was a case of suicide. A naked Liana Llyam Lhatam, 27, plunged to the ground from the Quito Building at 235 Roosevelt Avenue, San Francisco, Del Monte, police said. Lhatam was rushed to the hospital, but she did not make it alive. The victim lived alone, away from her family in Olongapo City, police said. The victim's friends told investigators that Lhatam, whom they described as a "heavy drinker and casual drug user," had been "depressed and upset" in the last few days. Police said liquor bottles were found in her room. *DJ Yap*

Homeless in Malabon

AN ACCIDENT waiting to happen, was how community leader Rodrigo Aniban described the fire that gutted more than 300 houses in a Malabon dump at dawn yesterday. More than a thousand families lost their homes in a 4-hour fire that started a few minutes after midnight and lasted until the break of dawn. City Fire Marshall Chief Senior Insp. Rodrigo Reyes said no one was reported injured, but all the houses in the 3-hectare dump were razed to the ground. "It was bound to happen because the residents used lamps or candles," said Aniban, president of the Samahang Maralita ng Purok 1. Aniban said that they had no choice but to use these alternatives because residents had been waiting for Meralco to approve their application for an electricity lines for the past 10 years. Apart from assistance from the local office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Mayor Canuto Oreta said he would send at least six tents as temporary shelter for the victims. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Haribon forum

FIND out the secrets of Philippine plant life from the country's plant lovers and experts at 5:30 p.m. today at the Minitheater of the Lopez Building, Meralco Center, Ortigas. A forum sponsored by Haribon, dubbed "Halamang Pinaka ... sa Paraisong Pinaka" features plant taxonomist Leonard Co, Dr. Edwin Fernando, from Forest Biological Sciences, UP Los Baños, and ethnobotanist Penny Reyes-Velasco. Admission is free. The Haribon forum is conducted monthly and tackles environmental issues. For inquiries, please contact: Lui Hugo at 433-3476 loc. 18, or 9207430. Or e-mail: advocacy@haribon.org.ph, act@haribon.org.ph.

ABS-CBN makes pitch for Noli

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEVENTY-FOUR PERCENT OF Filipinos think Vice President Noli de Castro is capable of being No. 1 should President Macapagal-Arroyo resign, according to the latest survey by the reputable Social Weather Stations (SWS).

And why not? De Castro is definitely more intelligent than ousted President Erap.

The former ABS-CBN news reader has more sense when he talks than Erap whenever he opens his mouth.

Erap would have been a good president if he didn't mix *kalokohan* with governance. He indulged too much in wining, womanizing and gambling. De Castro doesn't drink, is reportedly *ander de saya* (henpecked) and goes to bed early.

If Erap would have made a good president without his vices, De Castro would even be better because he has no vices.

* * *

I have it on good authority that ABS-CBN, the country's largest network where Noli had his star, is backing up its former news reader and commentator to replace President Arroyo.

Ever so subtly, the Lopez-owned network is imposing Noli de Castro on the people's consciousness as GMA's replacement.

My sources in the network say, GMA's downfall is "just a matter of time."

So, the network has taken back De Castro as host of the popular tele-magazine, "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

At the same time, ABS-CBN keeps covering rallies calling for GMA's resignation, making such events headline material, and interviewing opposition leaders more than administration officials.

* * *

Like the Iglesia ni Cristo, ABS-CBN fancies itself as a kingmaker since it was reportedly responsible for the election of public officials whom it had supported.

The Lopezes are interested in having De Castro installed as President because they perceive they can control their former employee and have him do their bidding.

Apart from ABS-CBN, the Lopezes also own the Manila Electric Co., the Maynilad water concession, the North Luzon Expressway, Bayantel telephone company, and many others.

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Baby slain in rob

SHE WAS CARRYING her baby on her lap when four armed robbers on board two motorcycles blocked their car and opened fire.Rosanna Guevarra survived the attack, but her husband Eric, who was driving the car, was shot in the left knee. Their daughter, Erica Charlene, 1, was not as lucky and was hit fatally in the head.

The Guevarras had just withdrawn money from a bank on Marcos Highway yesterday. They were on their way home when the robbers struck as their car made a turn inside UE Village, Barangay San Isidro, Cainta at around 11:30 a.m. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

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BASEBALL: MLB – A's vs Indians; 7 a.m. (r-2:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN – Oakland takes on Cleveland in the AL.

GOLF: Solheim Cup; 5:30 p.m. (r); ESPN – Take another look at the battle between the top female golfers from the US and Europe.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Compiled by L. Manguiat

Eagles seek revenge vs Archers

TENORIO: Key player

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
9:30 a.m.—NU vs FEU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—NU vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Srs)

NO LESS THAN THE TWICE-TO-BEAT bonus will be on the side when Ateneo tries to get back at defending champion La Salle today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Now tied for second with the idle Warriors of University of the East, the Eagles hope to avenge their first-round loss to the Archers starting at 4 p.m. and move closer to securing the next premium spot in the standings behind the Far Eastern U Tamaraws.

The pacesetting Tams (11-2) have been conceded the first twice-to-beat slot since they only have to deal with the cellar-dwelling National U Bulldogs (1-12) in today's varsity preliminary at 1:30 p.m.

"Everybody's aiming for the top two," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "It's still a closely contested position."

Although running fourth at 8-4, the Archers could still forge a three-way tie if the defending champions win against the Eagles today and the Warriors on Sunday.

Pumaren believes his Archers are ready for the two tough assignments, but doesn't see a repeat of their lopsided 78-60 first-round win over coach Norman Black and his Eagles.

"Norman got his proper rotation already and the players are responding," he said. "They're a different Ateneo since the day we played them in the opening game."

Pumaren said this was clearly proven when the Eagles stunned the league-leading Tamaraws, 69-66, last Sunday.

Chief playmaker LA Tenorio delivered a sensational performance for the Eagles, firing 12 of his 25 points from beyond the arc on top of five assists.

"Our fate is in our own hands so it was just a matter of getting our acts together," said Black. "It was a big win for us but on Thursday, it's going to be a different ballgame."

Black noted that his Eagles should be prepared against the Archers' suffocating defense.

"Against La Salle, I expect a pressing type of game and a full-court running game," said Black. "They're going to press us from minute one to the 40th minute and we just have to be ready to get into a fast-paced game with them."

Jasmine W. Payo

Pacquiao arriving with GMA

MANNY PACQUIAO WILL HAVE NO LESS than President Macapagal-Arroyo as a distinguished companion when he arrives to a "champion's welcome" from the United States this Saturday.

Sketchy reports said the President, who is returning from a UN Security Council meeting in New York, will rendezvous with the Filipino boxing hero in San Francisco and their respective parties will then take the same flight for home.

Pacquiao was initially scheduled to return today after an impressive victory in Los Angeles Sunday in his bid to forge a grudge rematch with Mexican Erik Morales early next year.

Games and Amusements Board chair Eric Buhain and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will meet Pacquiao at the airport before the champion fighter, an adopted son of Manila, is brought to the Manila City Hall.

Atienza and other city officials will then honor Pacquiao with a motorcade scheduled to start at 9:30 a. m. The welcome theme is Kampeon ng Maynila, Kampeon ng Bansa (Manila's champion is the country's champion)."

Organizers of the event, headed by Manila Sports Council (Masco) chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza, said the motorcade will pass through major thoroughfares covering the city's six districts to enable residents to get a glimpse of the boxing hero.

Pacquiao, a former two-time world champion, stopped Mexican Hector Velazquez by technical knockout in the sixth round of their match held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles last Sunday.

His rematch with Morales is set on Jan. 21 probably in Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, thousands of local residents are expected to fill the major streets of Tagbilaran City to welcome home WBO Asia Pacific bantam king Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista today.

The 19-year-old Boholano is on his way home to Candijay after knocking out Colombian Felix Flores Murillo in the third round of their eight-round bout in Pacquiao's card also Sunday.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Lim, and Candijay Mayor Sergio Amora Jr. will lead the welcome reception.

A victory parade in Tagbilaran and Candijay awaits Bautista, who plans to defend his WBO title in Bohol before the end of the year. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

3
days to go before
23rd SEA Games

Goin' bananas

THE PHILIPPINE BANANA GROWERS and Exporters Association is doing its share in helping the Filipino athletes for the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

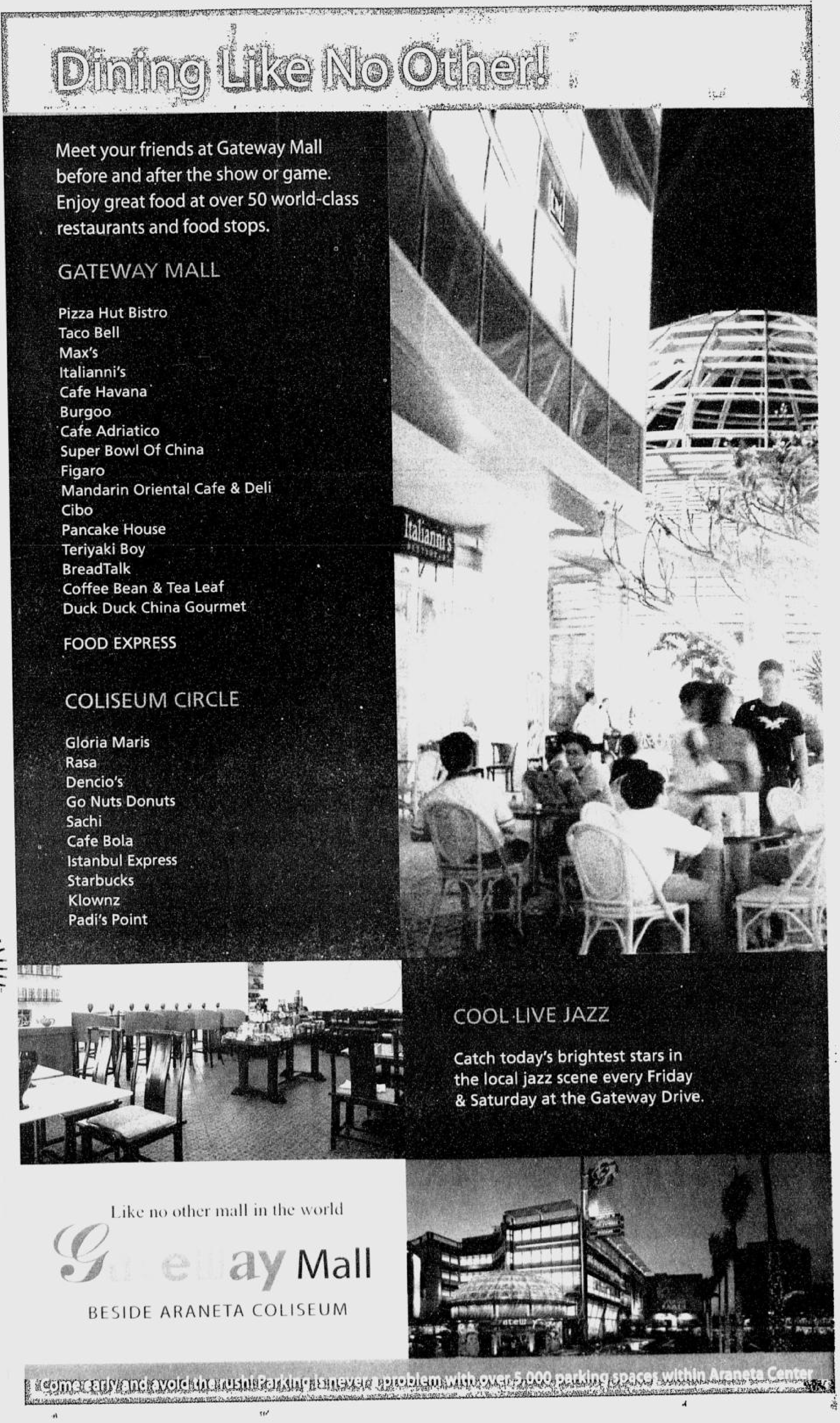
Tons and tons of export-quality bananas from Davao are being donated by the group, led by president Rodolfo del Rosario Jr, to the RP bets. Eighty boxes of 13 kilos each are being shipped every Monday to the athletes.

"Unknown to many, this group has been helping our athletes since the Busan Asian Games in 2002," said PSC Commissioner Leon Montemayor, a close friend of Del Rosario.

* * *

ONE HUNDRED three athletes and coaches from four sports will be leaving on Saturday and Monday for China to train for one month.

National badminton, fencing, football and volleyball bets were given a warm sendoff yesterday by Philippine Sports Commission officials led by chair William "Butch" Ramirez and commissioner Leon Montemayor at the RMSC. *Musong Castillo*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Cagayan de Oro routs Zanorte, gains quarterfinals

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE Cagayan de Oro Stars blasted the hapless Zanorte Hornbills, 115-93, Tuesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Corpus Christi gym here.

Roderick Ramos sparked the runaway triumph of former Misamis Oriental governor Antonio Calingin's Stars by scoring 33 points on 13 of 18 shooting, including six-of-nine from beyond the arc.

"I just told the boys to enjoy the game and play without pressure. We lost to Zanorte in overtime in our first meeting, but we proved tonight that we're the better team," said Stars coach Andy Calingin.

The fifth-seeded Stars earned a shot at No. 4 Iligan in the quarters of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The Hornbills of Gov. Rolando Yebes and Mayors Dominador Jalosjos and Roberto Uy were in the game only in the first quarter, which ended with the Stars ahead by only two, 29-27.

But the Stars went to town after that. Ramos tallied 11 points and Ronan Isidro chipped in 15 of his 22 points as the Stars pulled away at the turn, 60-44.

The scores:

CDO 115—Ramos 33, Isidro 22, Agustan 16, Rivera 7, Tadena 7, Alfeche 6, Romaguera 6, Diango 5, Jabagat 2.

ZANORTE 93—Gatumbato 18, Getubig 14, Arquero 11, Reyes 9, Magsumbol 8, Apepe 7, Jaro 7, Cuevas 6, Dumapig 4, Damonsong 3, Santander 2, Obar 2, Belingan 0, Menor 0, Cabanos 0.

SPORTSWATCH

Masters, X-Games on ABC

TOP bowlers from around the globe will cross paths in the 2005 World 10-pin Masters being aired by ABC-5 today at 4:30 p.m. ABC-5 will also show 2005 X-Games which was recently held in Korea, Thailand and the United States. The Thailand edition will be shown on Sept. 20-23 while the US version is slated Sept. 27-30 also at 4:30 p.m. On ABC-5's golf nights, the LPGA Safeway Classic will be replayed until Friday at 11 p.m.

Gymkhana Grand Prix

THE PHILIPPINE Gymkhana Grand Prix will be held on Sept. 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. during the Motorshow 14 located at The Forum, Red Parking Lot of the PICC. The event will determine the two riders who will represent the country in the 2005 Taiwan Gymkhana Grand Prix set Oct. 15-16 at the Taipei Show Center in Taipei. Entry fee is P500. For details, visit the Xtreme Worx Secretariat namssa01@gmail.com or call 853-1631, or contact Art at 0917-8479785 and Nikki at 0917-6135986.

Luzon taekwondo tilt

LUCENA CITY—Around 500 taekwondo-jins in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and CAR (Cordillera Autonomous Region) will vie for honors in the 2005 Petron Luzon championship on Sunday at the MSEUF gymnasium here. According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, competition will be conducted in the senior men and women, junior men and women, and mid-junior men and women and gradeschool boys and girls divisions. Organizing committee chair Capt. Elegio B. Dumalag said the opening ceremony starts at 10 a.m. The event is supported by Petron, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission.

8-Stag finals today

ANOTHER big crowd is expected today at the newly opened San Juan Coliseum when the GCAP Super Big Event 8-Stag Derby championship round gets underway at 6 p.m. The 60-fight program is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Among the leaders were the entries of Patrick Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Boy de Roca, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Dicky Lim, Rep. Jing Paras and Butch Pichay, Eric dela Rosa, William Go and Tony Lasala. For inquiries, call SJC at 725-5665, 725-5369 and 727-7086.

Submission of weights

COCKERS and breeders who are registered in Roligon Mega Cockpit's Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby must submit their entries tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The five-day affair (Sept. 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27) is hosted by Edgar Coronel of Pasig. Action starts at 2 p.m. on Sept. 17. Coronel, who will be assisted by pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno, said that more than 300 entries have confirmed their participation. For details, contact 85-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

BOOM BOOM'S BACK: Rey Bautista strikes up a fighting pose upon his arrival yesterday. Bautista knocked out Colombian bantamweight Felix Flores Murillo Sunday. ROGER MARGALLO

Public works to repair RMSC badminton hall

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC Works and Highways will undertake the renovation of the badminton hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

This was bared yesterday by the Philippine Sports Commission, which is tasked to carry out the preparation of the facilities and venues to be used for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games slated in the country from Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy said the badminton hall was closed to the public starting last Monday to prepare it for the refurbishing in time for the SEAG. The venue will be used as the warm-up arena for the gymnastics event.

SEAG organizing committee official Ritchie Garcia earlier said the gymnastics event will be held at the Rizal Coliseum but will still be needing practice and warm-up venues for the participants.

Iroy said the badminton hall will be re-opened to the public after the SEA Games.

Badminton events will be held at the Philsports multi-purpose arena in Pasig in the SEAG.

Also undergoing renovations are the track and field stadium, baseball park and the tennis center.

The government agency earlier said it has allotted P30 million for the repairs although the amount has reportedly exceeded the earlier estimate.

The Philippines is hoping to duplicate if not surpass its three-gold medal feat in gymnastics during the Vietnam SEA Games two years ago. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Cabagnot hooks up with Realtors

By June Navarro

STA. LUCIA REALTY PUT A LID on the Alex Cabagnot episode by signing the second overall pick Monday to a three-year contract worth P8.5 million after a month of wheeling and dealing.

"We waited for more than a year just to get this pick," said Sta. Lucia Realty governor Buddy Encarnado, who hosted a press conference for Cabagnot and his family at the PBA offices yesterday.

The former PBA chair also turned down offers from at least two clubs just to keep the No. 2 overall selection, who is a University of Hawaii-Hilo standout.

"That's how much we wanted him. I'm just glad that this issue finally came to rest after a month of waiting," added Encarnado.

Cabagnot, who arrived from the United States on Monday, was accompanied by his father, Cabagnot Sr., aunt MP Bautista and friend Jackie Quintos when the player was presented to the media by Encarnado and Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua.

"It's just a matter of miscommunication," said Cabagnot Sr. "When I talked with Buddy (Encarnado), I felt his sincerity and convinced my son that what had happened can be fixed."

Cabagnot reportedly left for the United States in a huff after his former agent Charlie Dy and the Realtors failed to come to terms.

Encarnado said Cabagnot's contract was the same pact Dy signed before negotiations bogged down.

"The only revision was the name of the agent. Now, Jeff's (Cabagnot) agent is his father," said Encarnado.

Possible RP slot for Elma

By Musong R. Castillo

ELMA MUROS-POSADAS' SOUTHEAST ASIAN Games comeback remains a possibility.

The most bemedalled Filipina in the Games turned in a respectable time in the 400-meter hurdles during the World Masters' Championship in San Sebastian, Spain, making her available for the Philippines in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 conclave.

"She can be available if she wants to, because her time (in Spain) is just a few seconds short of a medal (in the SEAG)," said Jojo Posadas, Elma's personal coach and husband who is also the lead coach in athletics.

Elma, whose bulk of 15 SEAG gold medals comes from eight long jump titles, turned in a time of 1 minute 04.48 seconds in Spain last month and her husband believes that a little training can whip her back to shape in a jiffy.

The long jump, where Elma became an Asean household name, is out of the question at the moment and a comeback can only happen in the 400-m hurdles or the 4x4 relay.

Grace Milgar is the brightest gold hope for the Philippines in the 400 hurdles with a personal best of 58.09 seconds, a sure silver in the Games. From what Elma showed in Spain, she will be a strong contender for the bronze.

Alvarez leads cadet expert class

ALVAREZ

JOHN ALVAREZ RECENTLY TOOK THE overall championship points lead in the sixth leg of the 2005 Shell Super Kart Series for the cadet expert class at the Kart Zone Racing Circuit in Mabolo, Cebu.

Alvarez, driving for TEAM CRG and backed by Prestige Cars BMW, Paramount Insurance, Castrol racing and Bridgestone, took pole position under wet conditions during qualifying and went on to take two first place finishes in the first and second heats and third place in the final heat to secure the points lead going to the last leg.

It was Alvarez's fifth podium finish in six starts.

Pointers for Pacquiao

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AMID ALL THE HOOPLA ATTENDING Manny Pacquiao's victory in Los Angeles last Sunday—not to mention the similarly sensational knockout wins of Filipinos Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and Brian "The Hawaiian Punch" Viloria—I suddenly remembered the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Ali lighting the Olympic Flame.

Coke as the Olympiad's chief backer.

A bomb going off not far from the Press Center.

And, most of all, I remember Mansueto Velasco winning a boxing silver.

Velasco's silver was the country's first since Anthony Villanueva also won a boxing silver in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Like Velasco, Villanueva's silver likewise appeared golden since Villanueva had been deemed robbed of victory in his championship fight against a Russian named Stanislav Stepashkin.

Onyok Velasco missed the country's first Olympic gold in 1996 after a close fight against a Bulgarian named Daniel Bojilov.

Still, as in Villanueva's case, Velasco's defeat also became inconsequential. To the Filipino nation, what was consequential was that Onyok missing the gold by a whisker still made the silver glisten like gold.

That's how desperate we've been all these years. An Olympic silver will instantly transform sadness into a golden, joyous moment. We yearn for sporting glory, never mind if it's half-baked or more than the next meal on the table.

I don't know if we have only ourselves to blame for this weird attitude that's been with us for so long now. But what I do know is we have the penchant to gloat even over pseudo sporting victories overseas, as though they suddenly take the form of cure-all both to a society besieged by political bickering and a citizenry reeling from economic uncertainties.

Most times, the politicians are to blame. Always, they are the first to whip up a storm of celebration, abetting it by saying this and that, leading to promises that, in the end, become unfulfilled.

Did Onyok receive the money promised him by Congress, nearly 10 years after his silver finish in 1996 in Atlanta?

Last time I asked—and that wasn't long ago—he hasn't received a single penny.

Oh, well, if it's any consolation, Onyok still has that Congress resolution extolling his golden performance for a silver finish.

And oh, if he could only eat that, he'd be as happy as Mang Pandoy.

But get this: Two-time world champion Luisito Espinosa also has yet to receive his purse of $150,000 for successfully defending his crown against Carlos Rios of Argentina in 1998 in Marbel, South Cotabato. A case to recover the money that rightfully belongs to him has been rotting for years in the sala of a Manila judge.

Please light a candle for the death of the justice system in this country.

And where's Luisito Espinosa now, the toast of Philippine professional boxing from the '80s to the '90s?

He's toiling in America, poor as a rat, subsisting on menial jobs to buy the next meal for his children and a wife who has declared a long time ago her utter hopelessness in recovering what is due her hubby.

To augment his income, Espinosa hasn't hung up his gloves. And, even if he is already pushing 40, the so-called "last fight" will never come to this boxer for as long as there are takers out there. Aren't young boxers being primed up for the big fights get pitted against over-the-hill boxers to beautify their win-loss records?

Please light a candle for the safety of Luisito Espinosa.

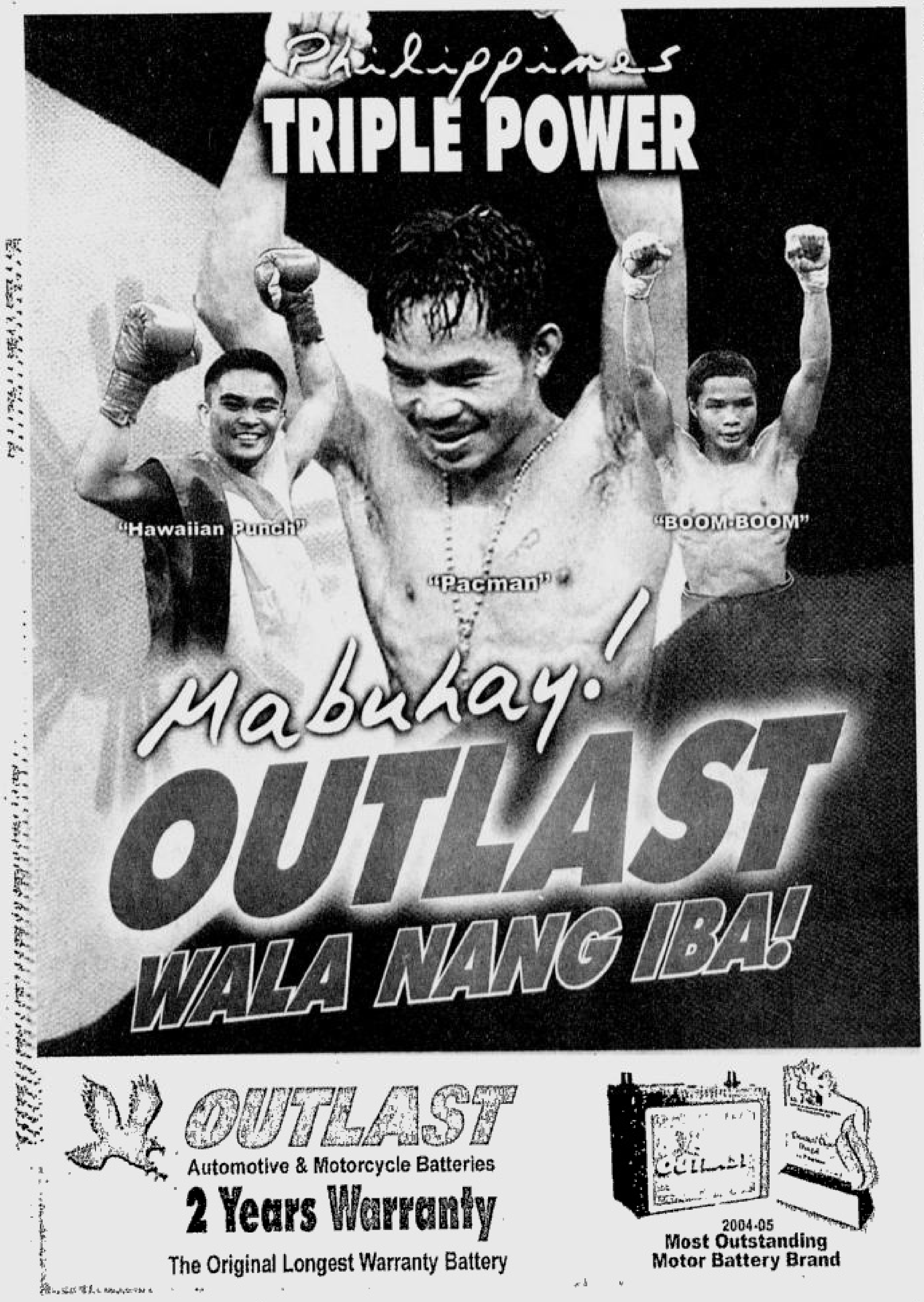
Now tell me, is our government really that serious in ensuring a bright future for our athletes who had brought honor to the name Filipino?

Tell me too, fellas, are our politicians any better in protecting the welfare of our athletes like Espinosa?

Save for the rainy day, Manny Pacquiao. Today, you have millions but you'll never know what tomorrow will bring you.

Save for the rainy day, Manny Pacquiao. Today, you have GMA and many more big-time politicians but you pretty well know what'd be on their minds when you hit the dumps tomorrow.

In the end, losers, if not retirees, have only their relatives to run to.



Mikola's chasers gear up for one last push in AF3

STOP ANANDA MIKOLA AT ALL COSTS.

This will be the battle cry when the Asian Formula Three Series visits Indonesia anew for rounds 9 and 10 at the Sentul International Circuit this weekend (Sept. 17-18).

The Indonesian series leader, driving for Fastron Racing with Threebond, needs just one more win—worth 20 points—to wrap up the championship in the International Class. He currently leads the standings with 115 points after eight rounds.

Six drivers, including Filipino young guns Dado Peña and Tyson Sy, will try to avert Mikola's march to the championship podium.

James Winslow, of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, is running a far second with 70 points, followed by teammate John O'Hara (67) and defending champion Christian Jones of Australia (62). Peña, of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, and Sy, of Speedtech Asia, are tied for fifth with 61 points, while another Filipino, 2003 champion Pepon Marave of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, is running eighth.

Jones, of Christian Jones Motorsport, has been busy preparing for the A1 Grand Prix that will have its kickoff leg on Sept. 25 and may miss the Sentul event, meaning Mikola has one less driver to contend with.

Pastor and Coseteng rule PNTCC opener

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—ENZO Pastor and Jody Coseteng earned top honors in kickoff leg of the 2005 Philippine National Touring Car Championship (PNTCC) at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

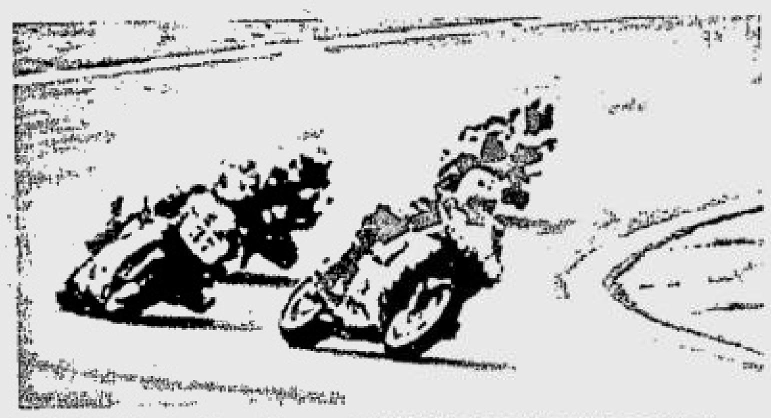
Pastor outdueled Coseteng and veteran Kookie Ramirez in the opening round of the series organized by the newly formed Race Fans Inc. and sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Coseteng got a measure of revenge by winning the second race held in the afternoon over Ramirez and Philip Alvendia.

The victories installed Pastor and Coseteng as the drivers to watch in the six-weekend series envisioned by Race Fans Inc. general manager Richard Santos as the "biggest and most prestigious motorsports events in the country."

AAP director for motorsports Mandy Eduque formally opened the weekend race while race legend Pocholo Ramirez drove the pace car provided by Honda Cars Caloocan.

The races will be shown over Sports Plus (Channel 35 on cable) every Wednesday on Slipstream, a production of Race Fans Inc.



RENAN Morales (front) paces the BRC field as it rounds a corner.

Morales tops car, motor races

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—RENAN Morales grabbed six trophies, including five first-place finishes, making him the winningest racer at the BRC Sunday.

Morales brought home four trophies by sweeping the two races of the Petron National Junior Touring Car series and the inaugural Philippine National Touring Car Championships, sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

"The first win in the morning was very important because it set the tone of the succeeding races," said Morales. "You have to start the day right and luckily, I was able to score that first win."

Morales clocked 47:07.365 in winning the 12-lap first heats of the Petron and the PNTCC.

Morales also ruled the afternoon heats of both the Petron and PNTCC with a time of 37:18.136.

Morales also managed to fashion out a victory and a runner-up finish aboard his motorbike in the Road Racing Championships.

In the race he won, Morales, backed by Paragon Brokerage, RPM Racing, Bridgestone and Shift Racing, finished in 13:48.784.

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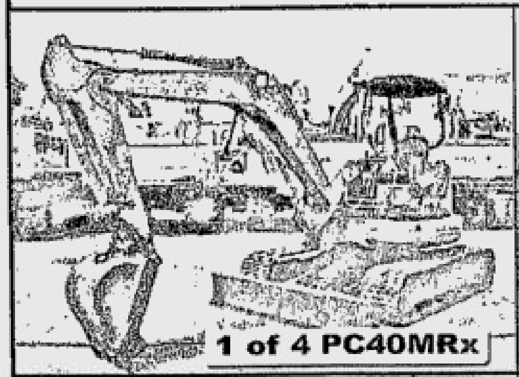

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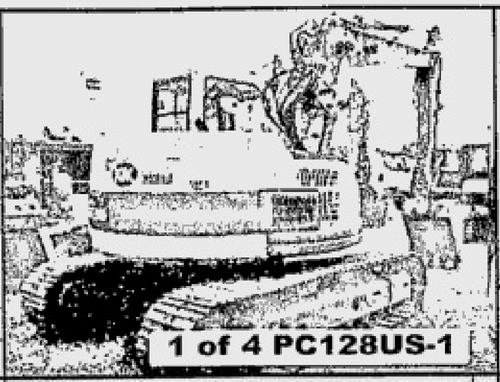

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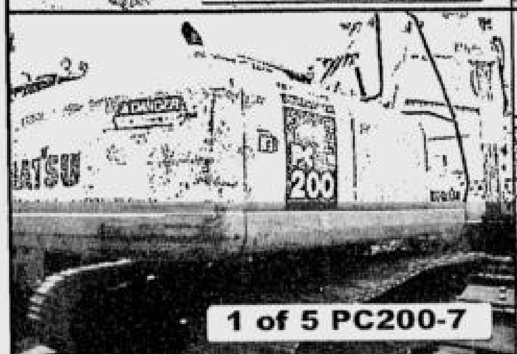

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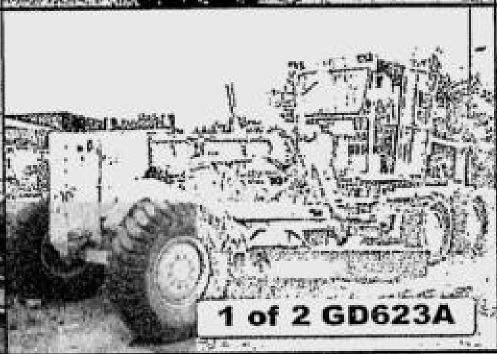

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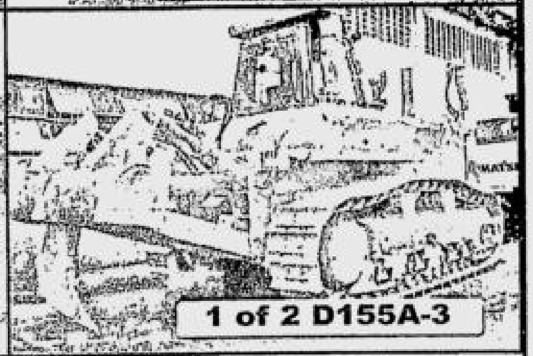

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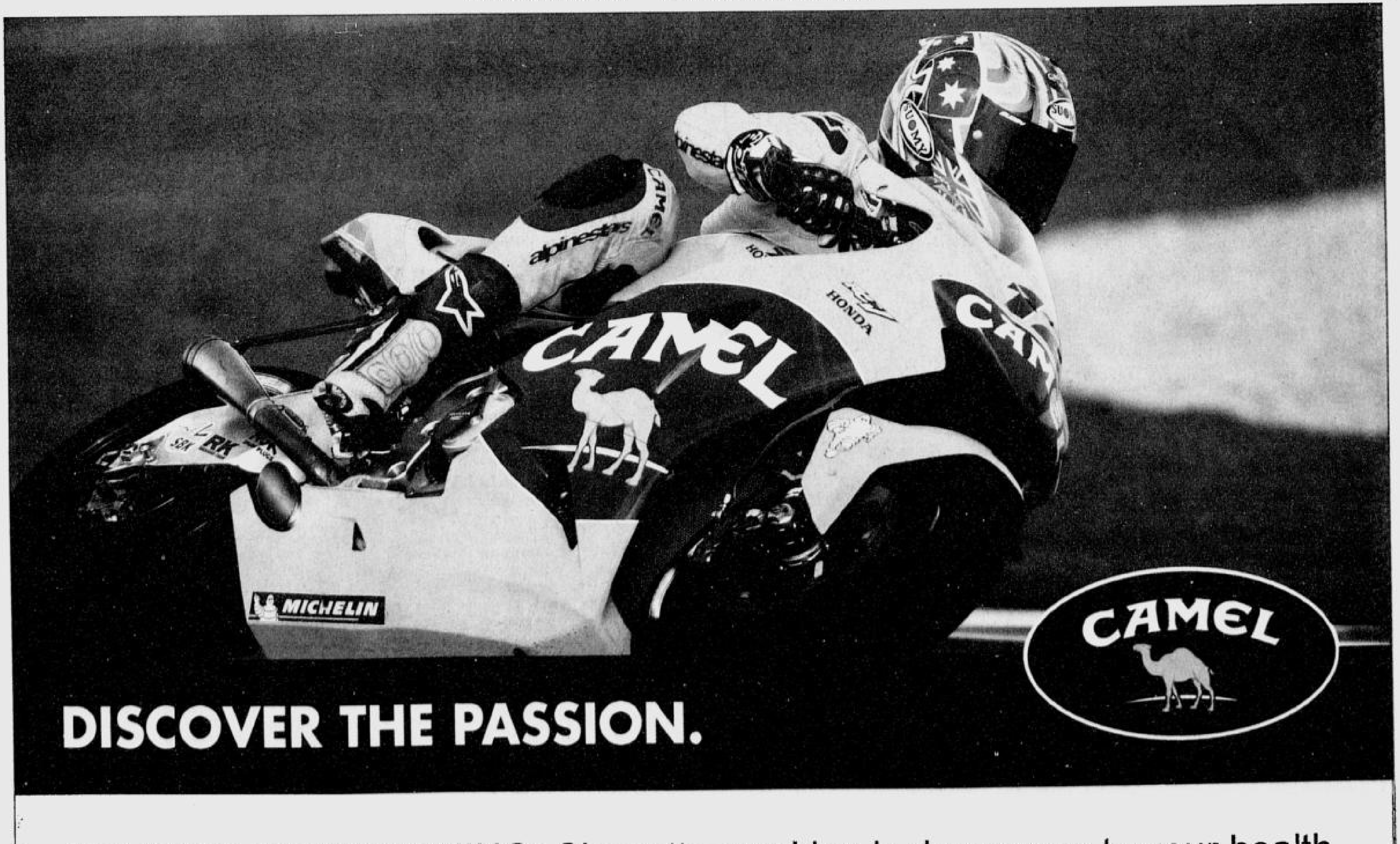

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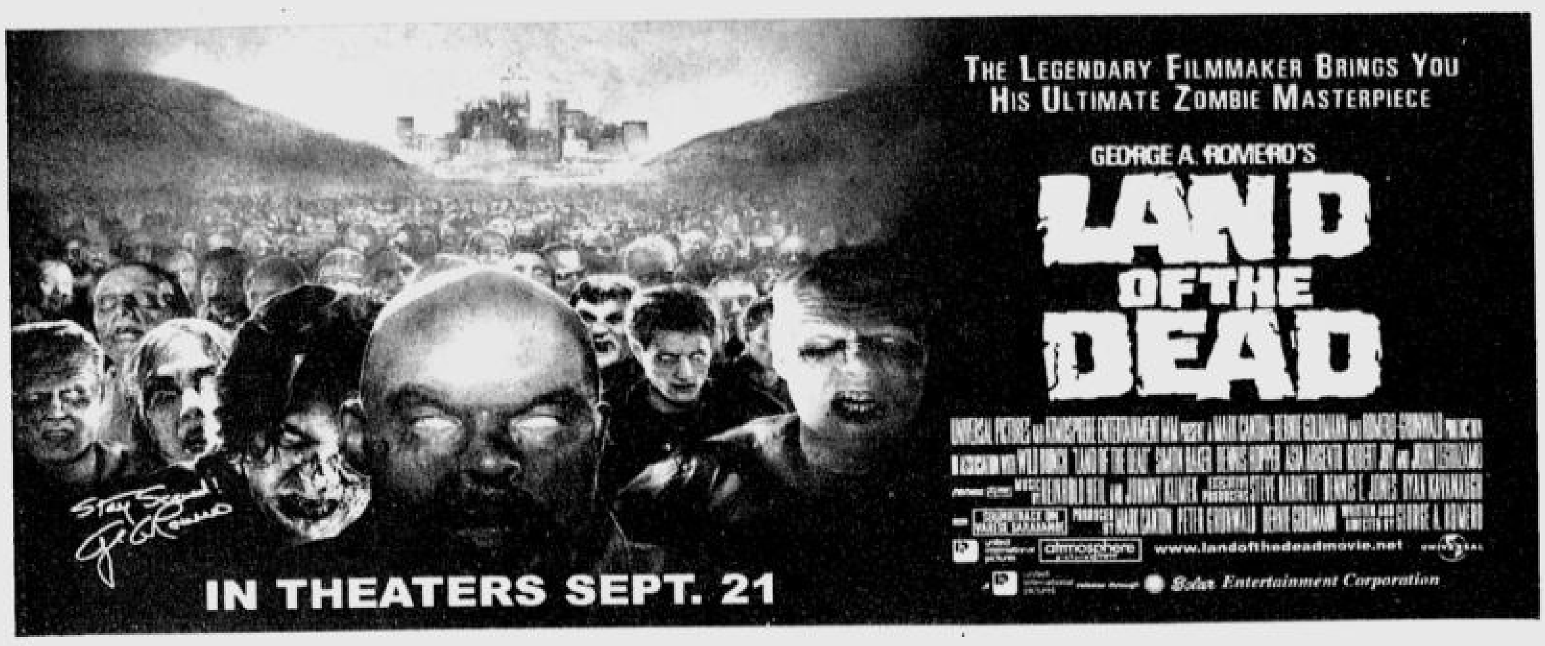
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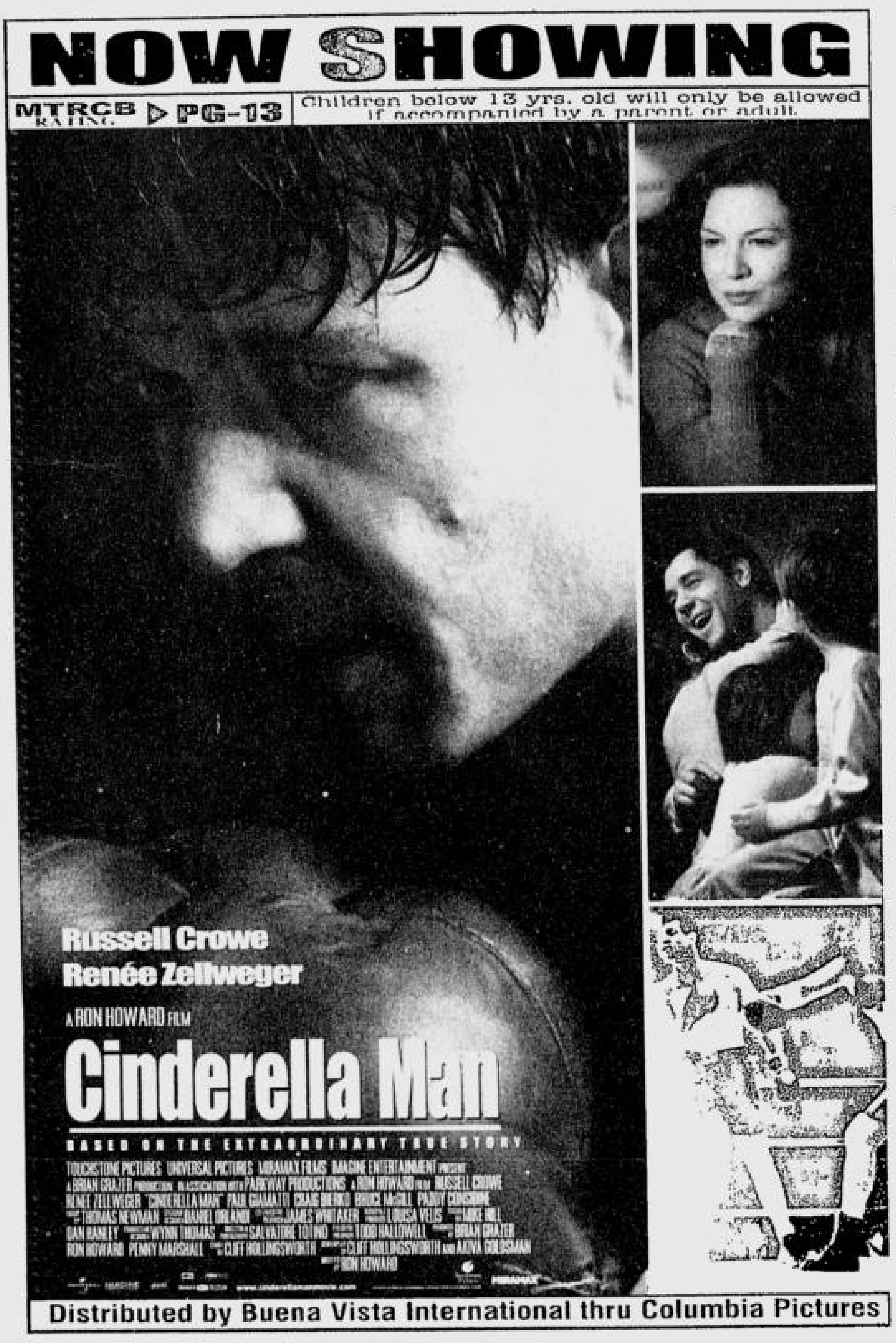
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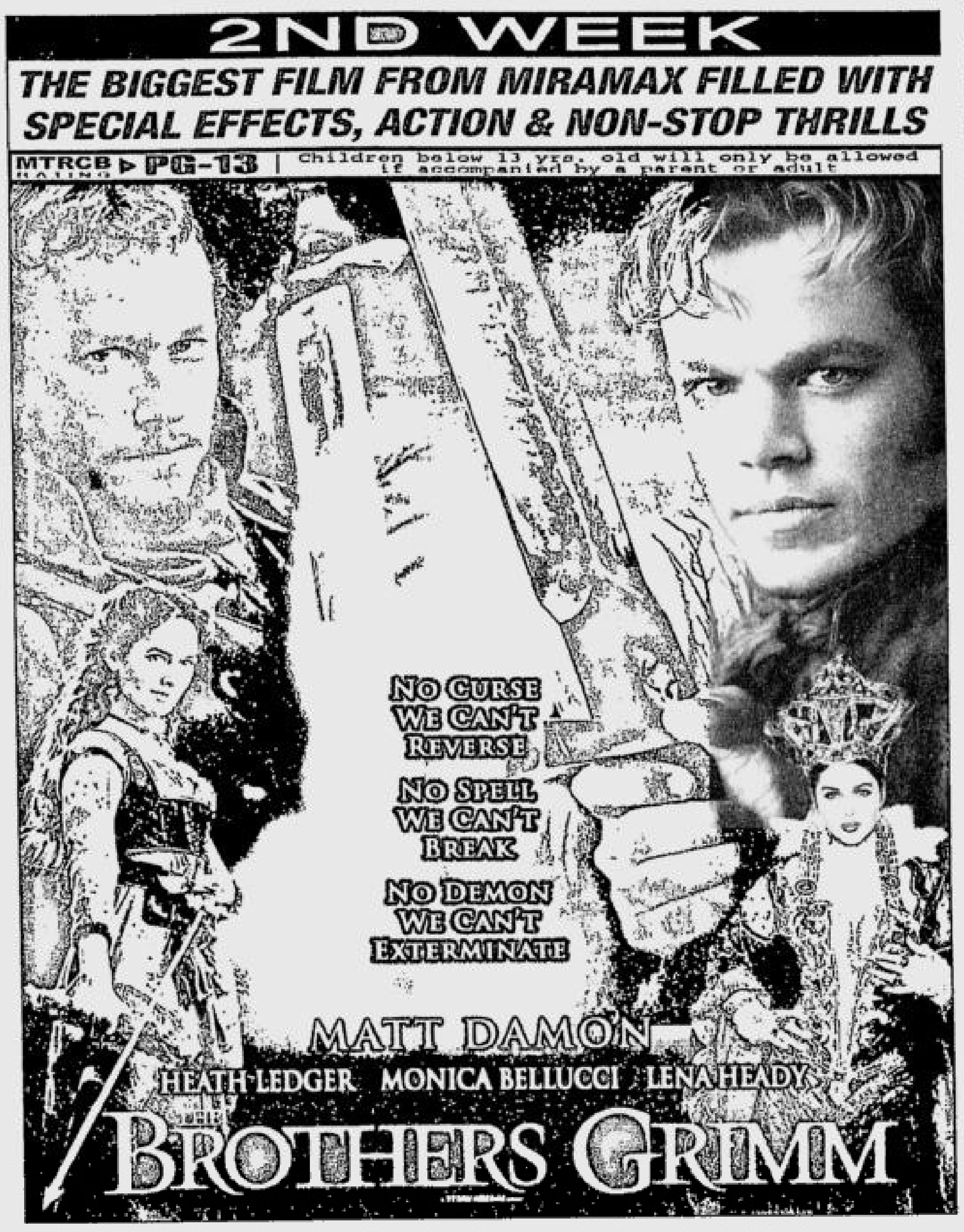
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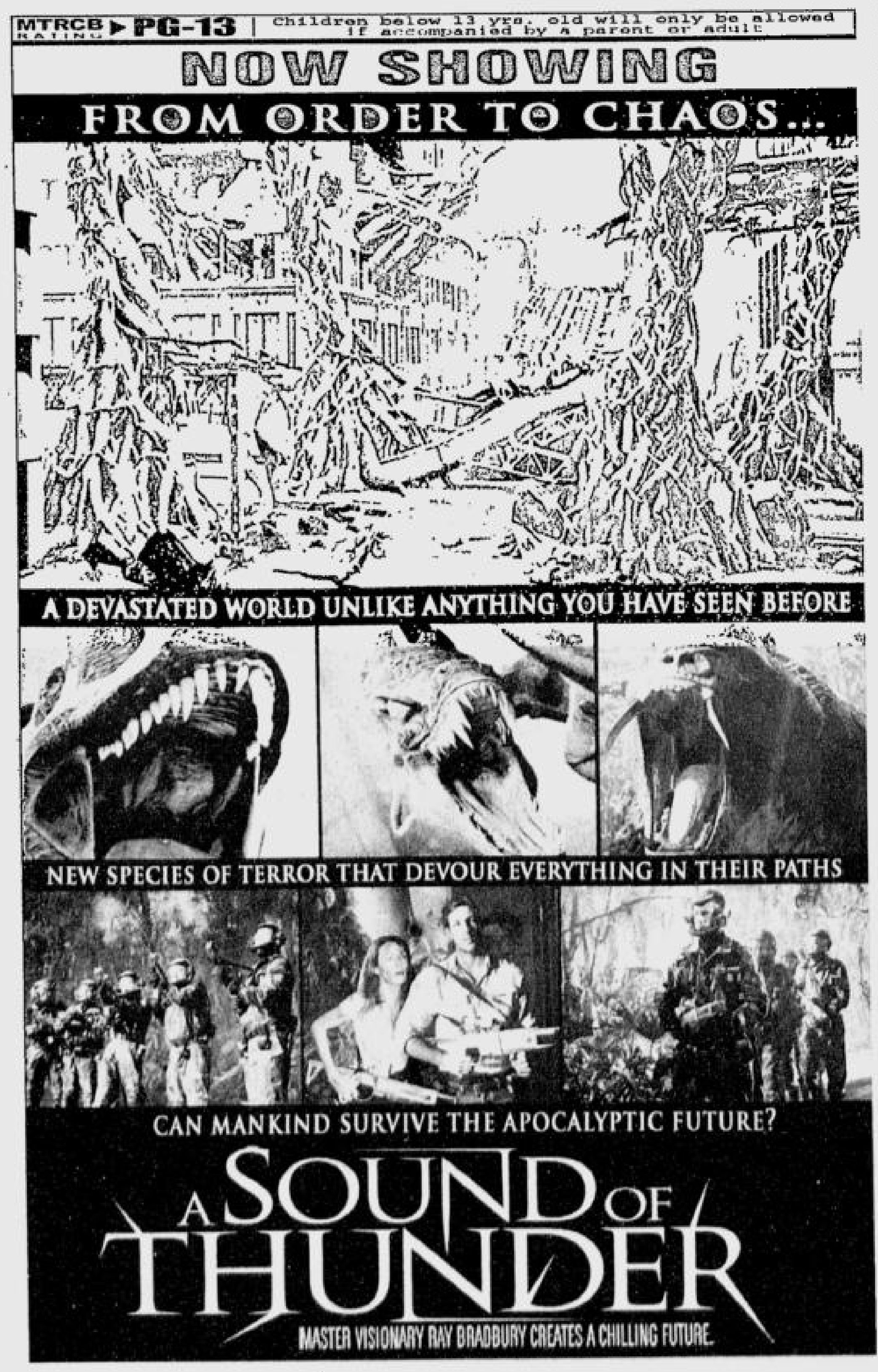
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Jolens on love: 'Don't hold back'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THE ROMANTIC FOOL THAT I am, I watched the premiere of "Lovestruck" and swooned.

It is full of cutesy and *kilig* moments. The "Starstruck" love teams (**Mark Herras** and **Jennylyn Mercado**, **Rainier Castillo** and **Yasmin Kurdi**, **Ryza Cenon** and **CJ Muere**, **Mike Tan** and **LJ Reyes**) simply do what Cupid tells them, with a little help from the "love guru" **Jolina Magdangal**. Although it's clear that Mark and Jen are the main focus of the story, Jolens steals the show when she pops out in various disguises—very much like the way love creeps into our lives when we least expect.

Teens will surely follow Jolens' "L'amour Rules" to the letter. Some of them are ridiculous (for instance, sip from the drink of your crush so that he/she will like you back), but those hopelessly in love tend to find meaning in the meaningless.

Mark reminds me of **Aga Muhlach** in "Bagets." In some scenes, he can pass for Aga's twin. There are times when Jen comes across as OA, but don't we all when we're in love?

Rainier is a revelation in his gay role. Yasmin is convincing as a girl pretending to be a tomboy. Their kissing scene (which took nine takes, I heard!) elicited shrieks from the premiere crowd. Ryza and CJ's team-up is not highlighted in the film. Mike makes his presence felt but his role as Jen's "fantasy" is obviously not welcome to Mark-Jen fanatics. LJ looks like **Gelli de Belen** from all angles.

Lorna Tolentino makes a special appearance in the movie. LT is always an asset on screen but I feel that her role here could have been scrapped. The movie should have stuck all the way to its "light and playful" theme. Be that as it may, "Lovestruck" is still a delight.

After the premiere, I cornered Jolens and asked if she had one love advice that she adhered to. Her reply:

"They say that when you love, you should leave something for yourself so you won't get hurt..I don't believe in that. When I love, I give it my all. What's the point of loving if you hold back? I'm lucky that my BF Bebong and I share this sentiment. Thus, even if ours is a long-distance romance, we don't have problems."

We saw Jolens grow up and it's good to know that she hasn't lost sight of what's true and what lasts.

Grand champ

"...AND [the award] of Grand Champion Performer of the World goes to... the Philippines' **Jed Madela!**"

Jed froze and had to be pushed to the front by fellow contestants. Delegates from other countries jumped, cheered and applauded as he claimed his trophy. Team Philippines and Filipino friends went on stage to hug him. "It was an emotional moment," Jed recalled.

A week earlier, delegates and organizers reportedly laughed because, while all the other countries sent between up to 250 delegates, the Philippines had only two. But as the days passed, they all became fans of the Filipinos.

They were also curious: Do Filipinos still live in huts? Are there malls in the Philippines?

Jed had to answer these questions and more from fellow contenders at the World Championships of the Performing Arts (WCOPA) 2005—also known as Entertainment Olympics—in Hollywood last month.

He won the gold (for all the categories

JOLENS/ A25

A ₱2-M row

By Marinel R. Cruz

"EXTRA CHALLENGE" HOST PAOLO BEdiones swears that the program's "P2M" episode is by far their most controversial.

Why not, indeed? "P2M," the program's anniversary episode, is where challenger Maui Taylor reportedly got on the nerves of her partner, Joyce Jimenez.

The episode also drew out a comment from actress Lorna Tolentino, whose two sons, Ralph and Renz Fernandez, were among the six pairs vying for the purse. "They said the second prize would be a car but the sponsor backed out last minute," Lorna said. "It wasn't worth my sons' efforts, especially since they had to skip school."

"Even Ethel and I had issues while shooting it," said Paolo.

"P2M" airs Monday on GMA 7. Other challengers are Dennis Trillo and Bianca King, Inday Garutay and IC Mendoza, Jackie Forster and Joanne Quintas, Jiggy Manicad and Kara David.

What are the perks of being an "Extra Challenge" host?

P: I can be close to the people. Wherever Ethel and I go, there's a very warm reception.

E: *Syempre sikat ka. At hindi ako basta-basta mapalitan ni* Alex (Crisano, her boyfriend). *Kasi kailangan n'ya maghanap ng* reality-TV show host *na mas sikat sa akin*. Also, *malakas ang* appeal *ko sa mga* guys *at mas mabilis akong yumaman.*

What is the most interesting place you've been to?

E: Dubai. Mabilis ang progress. I've been there twice—the second visit was only three months after the first. *Nung una, naririnig namin na magkakaroon ng* indoor skiing, *pagbalik namin* three months later *kalahati na ang nagagawa*.

P: Korea. It was really cold when we went there—16C. The challengers (Carmina Villaroel, Zoren Legazpi, Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz) were all cooperative. That was also the first time we experienced skiing.

The most dangerous challenge?

E: I jumped off a helicopter twice. *'Yung una sinagip ako ni* Paolo. *'Yung ikalawa, sa* Manila Bay, I was hospitalized. *Nagka*-infection *pa ako*. Three days ako *sa* hospital. *Naurong pa 'yung* silicon ko sa behind. *'Yung dating hindi pantay, pantay na ngayon. Sa sobrang dumi ng* Manila Bay, *may mga* time *na ayaw nang tumabi sa akin ni* Alex.

P: For me, our sky diving challenge was the most dangerous. I had to jump out of a plane at 4,500 feet. Up there, you're all alone. Although we took a six-hour crash course, it was dangerous in a sense that we could die if something went wrong while we're up there.

Yuckiest challenge?

P: It wasn't that yucky—The challengers stepped on the grapes and I drank the juice.

E: *Kumain ako ng* worm *nung* first episode *ko*.

Cutest challenge?

P: For me the cutest was when we turned Pia Guanio, K Brosas and Ira Bermudez into obese women. People really didn't recognize them.

E: *Nagustuhan ko 'yung* challenge *sa* Tagaytay with Angelica (Jones), LJ (Reyes), Valerie (Concepcion) and Miles (Hernandez). *Maliliit ang mga ginagamit nilang damit at* tools. Cute *talaga*.

Most inspiring challenge?

P: Our episode in Canada was the most touching. Lorna Tolentino, Toni Gonzaga and Nancy Castigleone became caregivers.

Ethel: *Nauuna pa akong umiyak sa mga* challengers.

Most controversial episode?

P: "P2M." All six pairs wanted to win. *Sa huli, may sisihan, may hanapan ng butas.*

E: *Pati kami ni* Paolo *nagkakaroon ng* misunderstanding.

P: We had trouble with challengers trying to bend the rules. The whole crew had to get their act together.

> Paolo: For a while, Ethel refused to talk to me and the challengers

Jolens on love . . .

From page A24

he joined), namely: Overall Winner for the Male Vocals, Overall Winner for Duet (with fellow Pinoy **Rizza Navales**), Senior Division and the ultimate award and title for the entire two-week competition—The Grand Champion Performer of the World.

Jed bested 3,000 other acts from 51 countries and seven continents.

Fellow contenders openly expressed admiration for Jed. One told him, "You're awesome; I'm glad you're not in my category."

Jed kept on winning round after round and ultimately became the 2005 Grand Champion Performer of the World.

For feedback e-mail dollyanne@citykartracing.com or wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

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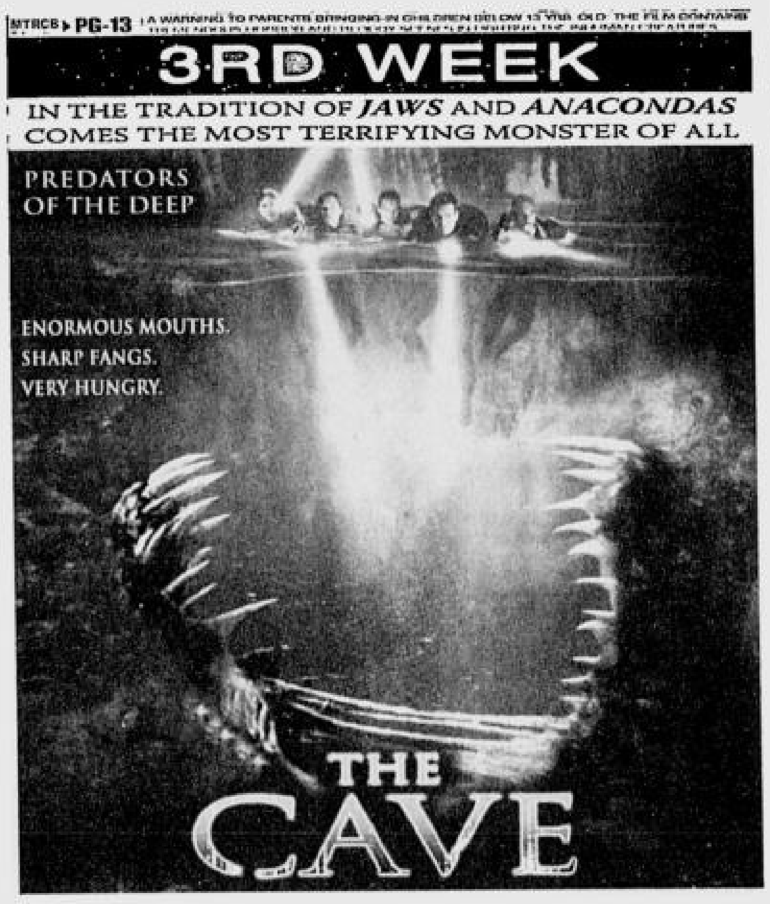

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(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 SKY HIGH
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVE STRUCK

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(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) PLEASE CALL
2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
3 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
4 (DTS) EVIL EYE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 MUST LOVE DOGS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LIPSTICK
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Rock Star' search gears up for exciting grand finals

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT ONLY FOUR "Rock Star" finalists are left standing—and singing—self-styled show biz seers are trying to second-guess the INXS jurors to predict the "final-final" winner. Let's elbow in on their action and see if we can come up with our own hopefully "educated" guesses:

Suzie used to be one of the tilt's weakest contenders, forever ending up among the show's bottom three.

Three weeks ago, however, just as she was ready to throw in the towel, her luck changed. All of a sudden, the studio audience went wild over her, and the INXS bandmates raved about her unexpected improvement as a performer.

Now, Suzie is the only female contestant left. But, can she hope to bag the top slot and its promise of lead singer status in the popular rock band? Not all that likely, since INXS prides itself on its "sensitive macho" appeal.

JD used to be an **Elvis Presley** impersonator, but "Rock Star" has enabled him to come into his own as an exciting rock performer. His problem appears to be his irascibility. From time to time in the competition, he's been rapped for being so self-absorbed that he doesn't work well with others. This could be a liability for him.

On the other hand, JD has been praised for being an original who fights for his unique interpretation of songs. In the field of rock, that's supposed to be an advantage.

On the *other* hand, the INXS bandmates are no longer spring chickens, so they may prefer to work with somebody not quite as volatile as JD.

That person could be "our" *MiG*, who has been able to combine exciting performances *and* a Mr. Nice Guy image. That appears to be a contradiction, but MIG has been able to pull it off.

Another likely winner is the fourth survivor, *Marty*. If MiG strikes people as a reincarnation of Peter Frampton, Marty is a young Sting. If all goes well, he and MiG could be facing off against each other on Sept. 21, when the "Rock Star" competition finally comes to a head.

Of course, JD and Suzie will be making sure that the final roster includes at least one of them—so we're back where we started!

In any case, as the INXS jurors have been repeatedly reminding everybody, it's now up to the band to pick its newest member, and that will finally happen next week.

Whoever gets the INXS band's nod, he or she will be instantly elevated to star status. And with the showcase and publicity that the televised "Rock Star" search has provided, the winner will be flying really high.

In fact, the search has been so visible and exciting that it's likely that even some of the "losers" will be launching successful solo careers in the months ahead. In this upbeat show biz scenario, most everybody wins!

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Sept. 15 at 9:50 a.m., "The Cat's Meow." 11:45 a.m., "The American President." 5:15 p.m., "Big Fish." Sept. 16 at 6:30 a.m., "The Hollow." 10:30 a.m., "The Door in the Floor." 3:45 p.m., "Batman Forever." 5:45 p.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

On Cinemax, Sept. 15 at 6:30 a.m., "Dead in the Water." 3:30 p.m., "Pal Joey." 9 p.m., "The Ring." Sept. 16 at 9:15 a.m., "Confidence." 1:30 p.m., "Field of Dreams." 5:15 p.., "Reality Bites." 9 p.m., "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

'Wild Side'

SEBASTIAN Lifshitz's film, "Wild Side," is being shown exclusively in its R-18 version at Robinson's Galleria. The drama is about the audacious romantic entanglement of a gay man, a bisexual prostitute, and a freewheeling transsexual. The film won the Teddy Award in last year's Berlin filmfest.

Music for Special Children

THE NEW course, Music for Special Children, at **Ryan Cayabyab**, the Music Studio, is especially designed to help mentally and psychologically challenged children focus, relax, move to rhythm and sing to the best of their ability. Its curriculum consists of musical activities like listening, singing, moving and creating.

The school will begin with classes for highly functional autistic children. Each class of between three to five students will consist of an hour-long session of activities that will address not only the musical needs of the child, but his or her person as a whole. The assessment for special children will be on Sept. 17. Call 844-3330.

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howie severino PANTASYA NG BAYAN
jay taruc BASURERO
kara david MUNTING PRINSESA
sandra aguinaldo MAALIGHONG KASAL
raffy tima THE DOCTOR IS OUT OF TOWN
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4:00 to 6:00 PM SCREENING
raffy tima TIPO KONG BABAE
kara david BUTO'T BALAT
sandra aguinaldo TUMA'T GINHAWA
jay taruc U-BELT
howie severino SAFARI
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Sept. 17 SM San Lazaro Cinema 1
Sept. 24 SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
Oct. 01 SM Megamall Cinema 3

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TRUMPETS LITTLE MERMAID
September 13,17, 20-24
Cinema 10

SM movietime
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
11:20FS/11:50MF/02:05/04:20/06:35
08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:45END
2 CINDERELLA MAN
11:45FS/12:15MF/03:10/06:05
08:30LFS/09:00LFS/11:35END

MEGAMALL
SOUND OF THUNDER
10:15FS/10:40MF/12:55/03:10/05:25/07:40
09:30LFS/10:00LFS/11:45END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE CAVE
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:20LFS/09:30LFS/11:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 RED EYE
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 THE CAVE
6 BROTHER GRIMM
7 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
8 LONG WEEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 LITTLE MERMAID
11 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
12 SKY HIGH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 RED EYE
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE CAVE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 SKY HIGH
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 EVIL EYES
11 RED EYE
12 LONGEST YARD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 RED EYE
7 CINDERELLA MAN
8 SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY MANILA
THE CAVE
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
4 BROTHER GRIMM
5 SKY HIGH
6 CINDERELLA MAN
RED EYE
8 LONG WEEKEND
LOVESTRUCK
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
11 EVIL EYES
THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY STA MESA
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE CAVE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 RED EYE
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 SKY HIGH
9 LAZARUS CHILD SM movietime EXCLUSIVE
10 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 SKY HIGH
THE CAVE
8 RED EYE
9 LONGEST YARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM SAN LAZARO
SOUND THUNDER
BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RED EYE
CINDERELLA MAN
5 THE CAVE
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
THE CAVE
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONGEST YARD
4 RED EYE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CAVE
BROTHERS GRIMM
6 LOVESTRUCK
RED EYE
8 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS
RED EYE
THE CAVE
LOVESTRUCK
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY LUCENA
THE GREAT RAID
LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONGEST YARD
LOVESTRUCK
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 SKY HIGH
3 SKELETON KEY
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 SKY HIGH
5 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
6 RED EYE
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD
7 RESERVED
8 EVIL EYES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 MAN OF THE HOUSE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 LONGEST YARD
6 SKY HIGH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

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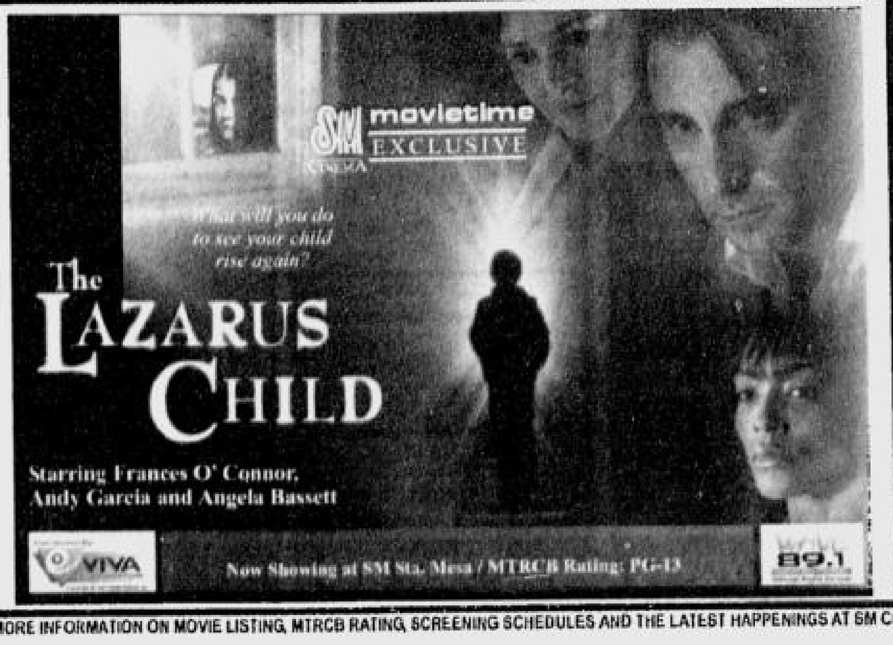

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CINEMA 4 SOUND OF THUNDER - PG13 11:50, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:25
CINEMA 5 CINDERELLA MAN - PG13 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
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1 CINDERELLA MAN MTRCB PG-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER Subject to MTRCB Rating (Please call for the time)
3 RED EYE MTRCB PG-13 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM MTRCB PG-13 11.00, 1.45, 4.30, 7:15, 10:00
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1 RED EYE
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 SOUND OF THUNDER

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CINDERELLA MAN PG13
BROTHERS GRIMM PG13
A SOUND OF THUNDER
RED EYE PG13
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
CINDERELLA MAN PG13

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Globe Platinum P249 / P 299
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CINDERELLA MAN 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
LOVESTRUCK 12:15 / 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00 / 9:15
A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BLDG. 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
THE CROW 4 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
CINDERELLA MAN 1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9.35
THE LONG WEEKEND 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
THE BROS. GRIMM 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9.20
RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
SKY HIGH 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
ALI MALL CINEMAS
① LOVESTRUCK 12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05
② A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
③ CINDERELLA MAN 12:05 R3 / 2:15 / 5:05 / 7:55
④ LIPSTICK 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
⑤ THE BROS. GRIMM 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Sep 15 Thursday FEU vs NU Jrs 9:30am DLSU vs ADMUJrs 11:30am
FEU vs NU Srs 1:30pm DLSU vs ADMU Srs 4pm
THE BEDROOM BOYS September 16 Friday 8pm
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE CAVE • THX
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CROW 4
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 WILD SIDE
7 THE LONG WEEKEND
8 RED EYE
9 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
10 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 THE CROW 4
3 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 THE CAVE
RED EYE

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

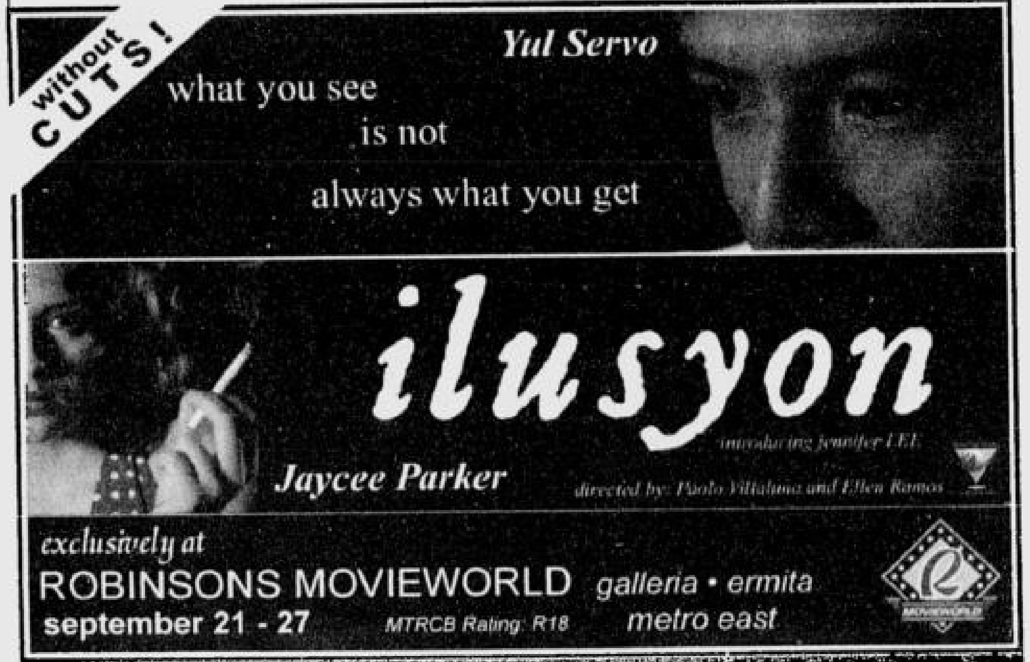
1 SKY HIGH
2 THE CAVE
3 RED EYE
4 THE LONG WEEKEND
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
7 SOUND OF THUNDER
8 LOVESTRUCK

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM



STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 SKELETON KEY
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 SKELETON KEY
3 SKY HIGH
4 THE GREAT RAID

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1 LOVESTRUCK
2 EVIL EYES
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 THE GREAT RAID

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 RED EYE
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE CAVE

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1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE LONGEST YARD
5 RED EYE
6 EVIL EYES

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
5 VALIANT
6 MUST LOVE DOGS

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1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
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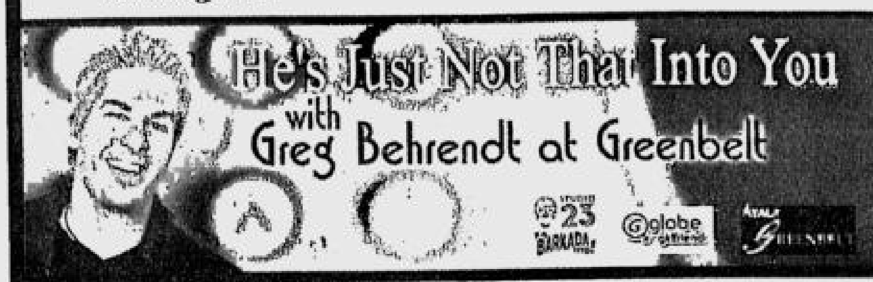

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Greg talks about his bestseller
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At the Activity Center

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THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE CROW: WICKED PRAYER	2 A SOUND OF THUNDER	3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	4 LOVESTRUCK			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 A SOUND OF THUNDER	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 THX CINDERELLA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 SKY HIGH	6 LOVESTRUCK	7 RED EYE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINDERELLA MAN	2 LOVESTRUCK					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX CINDERELLA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LONG WEEKEND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RED EYE GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CINDERELLA MAN	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 LOVESTRUCK	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER	5 RED EYE		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE LONGEST YARD	2 SKY HIGH	3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS	4 LOVESTRUCK			

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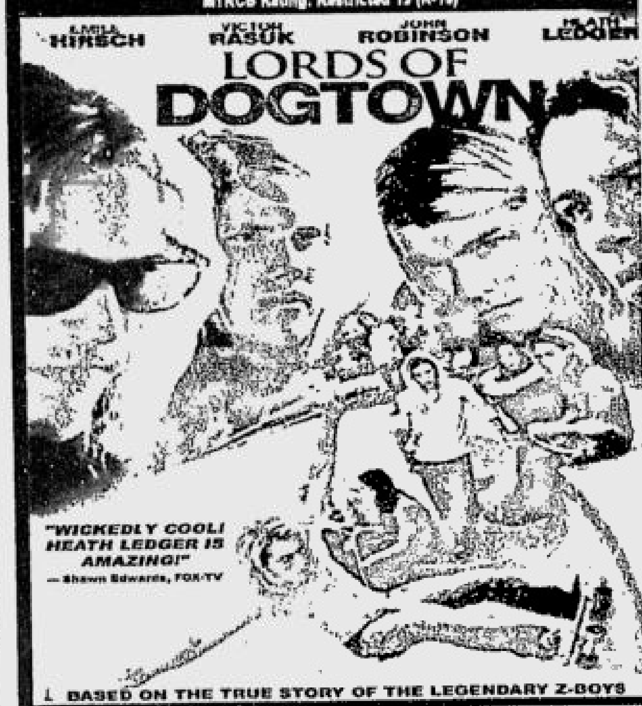
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HEATH LEDGER
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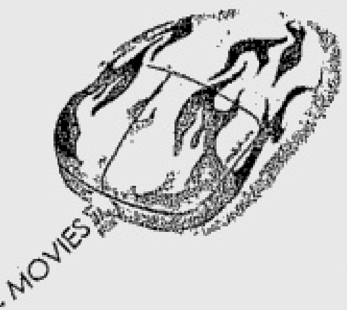
BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF THE LEGENDARY Z-BOYS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④	Cinderella Man
⑤	A Sound of Thunder

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Evasive Assunta

'ABS-CBN does not pay me to answer personal questions'

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS ASSUNTA DE Rossi would not discuss the status of her contract with ABS-CBN during a press conference last Tuesday for the network's latest teleserye, "Vietnam Rose," where she has a supporting role.

"I refuse to answer that," she said when INQUIRER Entertainment asked if she was still a contract artist of the station. "ABS-CBN is not paying me to answer questions about my personal life."

The former bold star's husband, former Negros Occidental Rep. Julio "Jules" Ledesma said last week that his wife was leaving the network for not fulfilling the terms of her previous contract. He said ABS-CBN recently "foisted…a diminished contract" on the actress.

At the start of the press conference, network staffers warned that Assunta intended to leave immediately after the usual round of statements from the cast, the director (Joel Lamangan), and the screenwriter (Ricky Lee).

That Assunta turned up at all surprised the entertainment press and some ABS-CBN staffers.

Ledesma earlier said ABS-CBN president Gabby Lopez had "aggressively pursued" Assunta's transfer from rival station GMA 7.

While with ABS-CBN, according to Ledesma, Assunta's income rose by less than 30 percent. He also accused the network of humiliating his wife in the billing and media announcements for "Vietnam Rose."

ABS-CBN has not issued an official statement on the issue.

This is not Assunta's first time to be embroiled in a skirmish related to her management contract. Before she married Ledesma in March last year, she terminated her contract with veteran talent manager Manny Valera, who basically built her career.

Assunta then signed up with talent manager June Rufino. But Assunta also broke this contract after Ledesma accused Rufino of inability to deliver as expected.

In "Vietnam Rose," Assunta plays a quirky mistress out to mine an illicit relationship.

In teasers for the teleserye which premieres on Monday, Assunta delivers a provocative line proclaiming to her expectations. "*Bahay, kotse, konting pagmamahal.*"

She is perceived to have more than that in real life. Her husband, member of an old rich family in the South, claims he has enough wealth to provide for his wife.

ROUNDUP

Digital film rated 'A'

"IT WAS unexpected." This was the initial reaction of first-time filmmaker Paolo Villaluna when his digital movie "Ilusyon," which he co-directed with Ellen Ramos, was rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

"I thought only glossy films get an A," he told Inquirer Entertainment. "To think our budget for the movie was only P900,000."

Thus far, the only other rated-A film this year has been Mark Meily's "La Visa Loca."

"Ilusyon," top-billed by Yul Servo and Jaycee Parker, will be shown exclusively at Robinsons cinemas (Galleria, Ermita and Metro East) Sept. 21 to 27. A free showing is set at the UP Diliman Cine Adarna tonight at 7.

'Masahista' picked up in Toronto

IN THE Toronto International Film Festival, Dante Mendoza's "Masahista" was picked up by Picture This! for distribution in the United States and Canada; by Edition Salzgeber for Germany, Austria and Switzerland; and by Estin Films for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The news was relayed by "Masahista" sales agent Ferdie Lapuz.

Cinemalaya Part Two

"AFTER THE success of the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, there was a 100 percent increase in the number of entries for next year's competition," announced Robbie Tan, chair of the monitoring committee.

This was confirmed by director Laurice Guillen, who heads the Film Development Council of the Philippines, one of the organizers of the film fest, along with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Philippine Multi-Media Systems, Inc.

"We received 228 entries from all over the country, but mostly from Metro Manila," Guillen said.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

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Taxes eat up 46.4% of entrepreneurs' profits

THE GOVERNMENT needs to address problems hindering the development of SMEs in the country, as they compose the biggest number in the business sector.

WB study says RP firms among most heavily taxed

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS OPERATING medium-sized companies are among the most heavily taxed in the East Asia Pacific region, with taxes and fees imposed by the government eating up 46.4 percent of their gross profit.

This was the major finding of a study titled "Doing Business" conducted by the World Bank and its private-sector development arm—International Finance Corp. (IFC).

The amount of taxes and fees paid by businesses in the Philippines was higher than the regional average of only 31.2 percent, the study showed.

Noting that despite having high tax rates and fees, the Philippines still suffered from a weak tax take that eventually led to its fiscal problem, and suggested that the government strongly pursue initiatives in improving tax-collection efficiency.

Weak tax collection, which stood at only 14.5 percent of gross domestic product in 2004, was usually a result of tax evasion and corruption.

The World Bank said the government's recent move ordering line agencies to raise fees and charges was discouraging investments. The government should instead widen the tax base and plug tax leakages, it added.

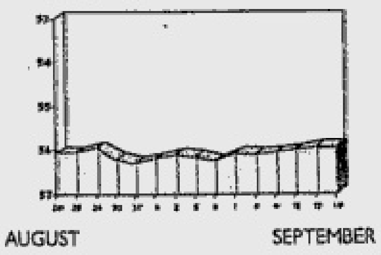
"The report finds that poor countries levy the highest taxes in the world. These high taxes create incentives to evade, driving many firms into the underground economy, and do not translate to higher revenues," The World Bank said in a statement.

Joachim von Amsberg, the World Bank's country director for the Philippines, said efforts to widen the tax base, such as by implementing the currently suspended expanded VAT law, was one step toward to reforming the country's tax system and solving the fiscal problem.

TAXES/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱55.925 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 14, 2005

¥110.54 = $1

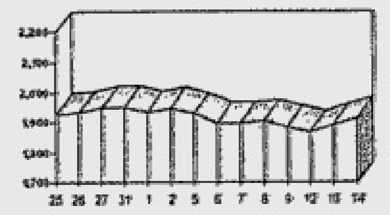
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 14, 2005

GOLD: $447.20-447.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 14, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks rise 1.06%

SHARE prices closed 1.06 percent higher yesterday, extending gains as investors took advantage of a lull in political tensions to hunt for bargains, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 20.07 points to 1,914.74 after trading between 1,914.92 and 1,894.29. Volume was 458.4 million shares worth P1.01 billion. Gainers beat losers 40 to 25,

STOCKS/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE
MVP buys up 97,000 PLDT shares /B2
SEC files criminal charges vs CAP /B10

Gov't awards lease deals on 2 Japan lots

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT has awarded the lease and development contracts for two pieces of property in Kobe, Japan, to Japanese construction firm Berg Co. Ltd. for 1.3 billion yen or about P667 million.

Berg, established in 1985, is a Japanese firm engaged in the business of construction.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who oversees the government's privatization program, said the lease and development contracts would be good for a 50-year period.

Proceeds of the government's privatization efforts, including the lease of its pieces of property in Japan, are intended to boost its funds for infrastructure development, the Department of Finance had said earlier.

One of the two leased assets is the Naniwa-Cho Property—specifically located in the commercial district of Naniwa-Cho, Kobeshi Hyogo—which is a vacant lot measuring 764.7 square meters.

The other property is the Obonayama Property, which has an area of 3,014.87 sq.m. "The lot commands a panoramic view of the Osaka port and is located in an upper middle class residential area that allows first-grade, mid-rise structures," the DOF said.

Separate biddings were conducted for each of the property, and Berg won in both.

For the Naniwa-Cho property, Berg will pay the Philippine government a development fee of about P419 million (827.887 million yen), and another P248 million (490.196 million yen) for the Obonayama property.

The government decided to offer the Japan assets only for a lease contract instead of selling them following opposition raised earlier by some legislators, who said these were considered part of national patrimony.

The lease of the two pieces of property in Kobe leaves two more Philippine real estate assets in Japan that have yet to be leased out. Singson said the government was still in the process of gather-

GOV'T AWARDS/ B2

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 14, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	1,219,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52	51.5	51.5	3,718,400
China Banking Corp.	840	840	840	840	320
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	350,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49.5	49.5	80,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26	1,247,400
Philippine National Bank	35	35	34	34.5	12,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	31	29.5	31	51,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	2830	2830	2830	2830	840
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2060	2060	2060	2060	110
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	14,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	740	725	740	32,790
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	52,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.95	3	868,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1555	1565	1555	1560	120,490
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	16,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.5	21.5	366,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,143,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	762,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	122,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	2,331,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	460,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	8,260,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.15	3,113,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	100,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35.5	35	35.5	350,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	55,300
San Miguel Corp. B	94	95.5	94	95	457,300
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	80,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	9,000,000
Ayala Corp.	285	297.5	285	297.5	101,190
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	631,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	1,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	2,904,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	220,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.67	0.67	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	6,130,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	550,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	640,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,860,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.05	181,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	185,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	44	42	43.5	2,806,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,500,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	7,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	21	21	21	21	200
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	115,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	901,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	250,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	5,260,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2,000
SM Investments Corp.	211	212	209	212	240,700
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	9,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.24	0.26	0.16	0.175	9,590,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	540,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	670,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7.5	8.5	6.2	6.2	5,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	420,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	480,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	435,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	21,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.7	8,435,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	670,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,180,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	4,297,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.205	0.18	0.205	290,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.65	4,422,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	240,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	17,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	9,345,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.96	450,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.97	0.98	0.95	0.96	850,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	567,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	33,120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	7,110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	43,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	113,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	26,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.81	0.82	0.79	0.79	3,070,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1	1	0.99	0.99	1,750,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	63,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.33	0.33	0.29	0.29	310,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	75,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	380,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	162,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	230,000

CURRENCIES

September 14, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.815062	1.000000	55.9810
Japan	Yen	0.007369	0.009041	0.5061
United Kingdom	Pound	1.485777	1.822900	102.0478
Hongkong	Dollar	0.105018	0.128846	7.2129
Switzerland	Franc	0.646208	0.792833	44.3836
Canada	Dollar	0.690087	0.846668	47.3973
Singapore	Dollar	0.484810	0.594813	33.2982
Australia	Dollar	0.625719	0.767695	42.9763
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.162084	2.652661	148.4986
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217345	0.266660	14.9279
Brunei	Dollar	0.483372	0.593049	33.1995
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019914	0.024432	1.3677
UAE	Dirham	0.221931	0.272287	15.2429
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.226900	68.6831
Argentina	Peso	0.279131	0.342466	19.1716
Brazil	Real	0.349662	0.429000	24.0158
Denmark	Kroner	0.134149	0.164587	9.2137
India	Rupee	0.018601	0.022821	1.2775
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216254	0.265322	14.8530
Mexico	New Peso	0.075489	0.092618	5.1848
New Zealand	Dollar	0.571292	0.700918	39.2381
South Africa	Rand	0.128129	0.157201	8.8003
Korea	Won	0.000795	0.000975	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024925	0.030580	1.7119

Gov't awards . . .

From page B1

ing bidders for the two properties, namely the Nampeidai property and the Fujimi property.

The Nampeidai property, which measures 2,489.96 sq.m., is currently being used only as a storage facility of the Philippine Embassy in Japan. The Fujimi property, measuring 4,361.85 sq.m., is the official residence of the Philippine ambassador to Japan. *Michelle V. Remo*

Stocks rise 1.06%

From page B1

while 46 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index gained 10.26 points to 1,170.03 points.

"The market's rise accelerated after it broke through resistance at 1,900 points but with trading still anemic, there's no certainty that these gains will be sustained for the rest of the week," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities. *AFP*

MVP acquires 97,000 shares of PLDT stock

MANUEL V. PANGILINAN truly loves his own.

The chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday disclosed that he spent nearly P80 million in acquiring 97,571 shares of PLDT through a stock option plan at P814 a piece.

Pangilinan now owns 201,729 shares of PLDT worth P315.7 million at yesterday's closing price of P1,565 each.

Pangilinan also chairs Smart Communications Inc. and its subsidiary Pilipino Telephone Corp.

Telco shares went up yesterday. PLDT shares moved up by P5 while stocks of Globe Telecom Inc. closed P15 higher at P735 per share.

Stocks of second-rank Globe had been dropping on analysts expectations that the company's earnings would soften. Globe shares two weeks ago fell to a 52-week-low at P695.

PLDT is targeting a stock price of P1,700 by 2007. The target, according to an analyst, could be hit as early as this year.

The telco czar said PLDT profits would hit P29 billion by yearend from P15 billion in the first half. *Clarissa S. Batino*

It makes me shriek

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

EVERYBODY knows that, after those Filipino boxers swept their matches in Los Angeles last Sunday, we do not have to worry about silly things anymore.

One good example of ridiculous things worrying us, as a poor developing country, is the forthcoming electricity shortage.

Even the "experts" in this cute travelling administration themselves predicted the shortage only three years from now.

What are we doing about it? Well, basically, NOTHING much!

That's probably why the government power corporation, the monstrous Napocor, was able to sneak in some more huge borrowings.

That was $400 million in new debts of Napocor, which incurred losses of P100 billion last year, but is seen to continue incurring losses of more than P30 billion this year.

I can only wonder what financial institutions abroad were crazy enough to lend more money to Napocor. Forgodssake, the monster is bleeding worse than a hemophiliac.

* * *

WHAT amazes me even more was, based on news reports, Bangko Sentral Governor Armando Tetangco was beside himself with joy over Napocor's new borrowings.

It seems that the $400 million new loan shored up the country's gross international reserves to an all time high of $17.852 billion.

Anyway, let me see if I get the picture right: So here is the biggest pain in this cute administration's butt called budget deficit. This Napocor, which is losing money heavily, is already buried in a mountain of debts as a result. And the country's big boss on monetary matters is gloating over Napocor's new borrowings, because the loan added to the freaking GIR.

Something is terribly wrong with this picture that it makes me sick.

* * *

LADIES and gentlemen of the tax paying public, the new $400 million loan of Napocor is not even going to go to the building of new power plants.

Sure, the electricity shortage is certain to come by 2008. Fortunately, it takes at least five years to build a power plant from scratch.

And this cute administration is taking no action at all.

So what does Napocor need those $400 million for but to pay for its maturing debts?

Again, what's wrong with that picture above is, well, this country incurs more debts through the monster Napocor for something that is not productive.

The loan is not meant for building new power plants, as I said, but for repaying old loans of Napocor and for covering for its huge losses.

The result: We must pay for the interest of the new loan, which we use to pay for the interest on the interest of some old loans, which Napocor needed to cover for its losses, and so on and so forth. It is an endless cycle of burying ourselves in a mountain of debts.

Oh, by the way, the Napocor borrowings increased the GIR, according to Tetangco. Congratulations, boss!

* * *

METHINKS Congress should investigate the new loan of Napocor. I mean, come on, unless you have a shoe-size IQ, your immediate reaction to the news is, simply, WHY?

I thought we are trying to kill this monster.

Under the law called EPIRA, Congress already decided that we should privatize Napocor, which is the only way to stop the bleeding and thus shift the burden of losses from the national government.

This cute administration already absorbed Napocor's old debts amounting to P200 billion. Guess who pays for those old debts? Right, the tax paying public.

Still, this cute administration of Glori-aetta is allowing the monster to borrow some more.

Maybe no one in the Palace knows about the Napocor borrowings, since everyone there has been busy with the impeachment and the political survival game. Nobody is minding the store anymore.

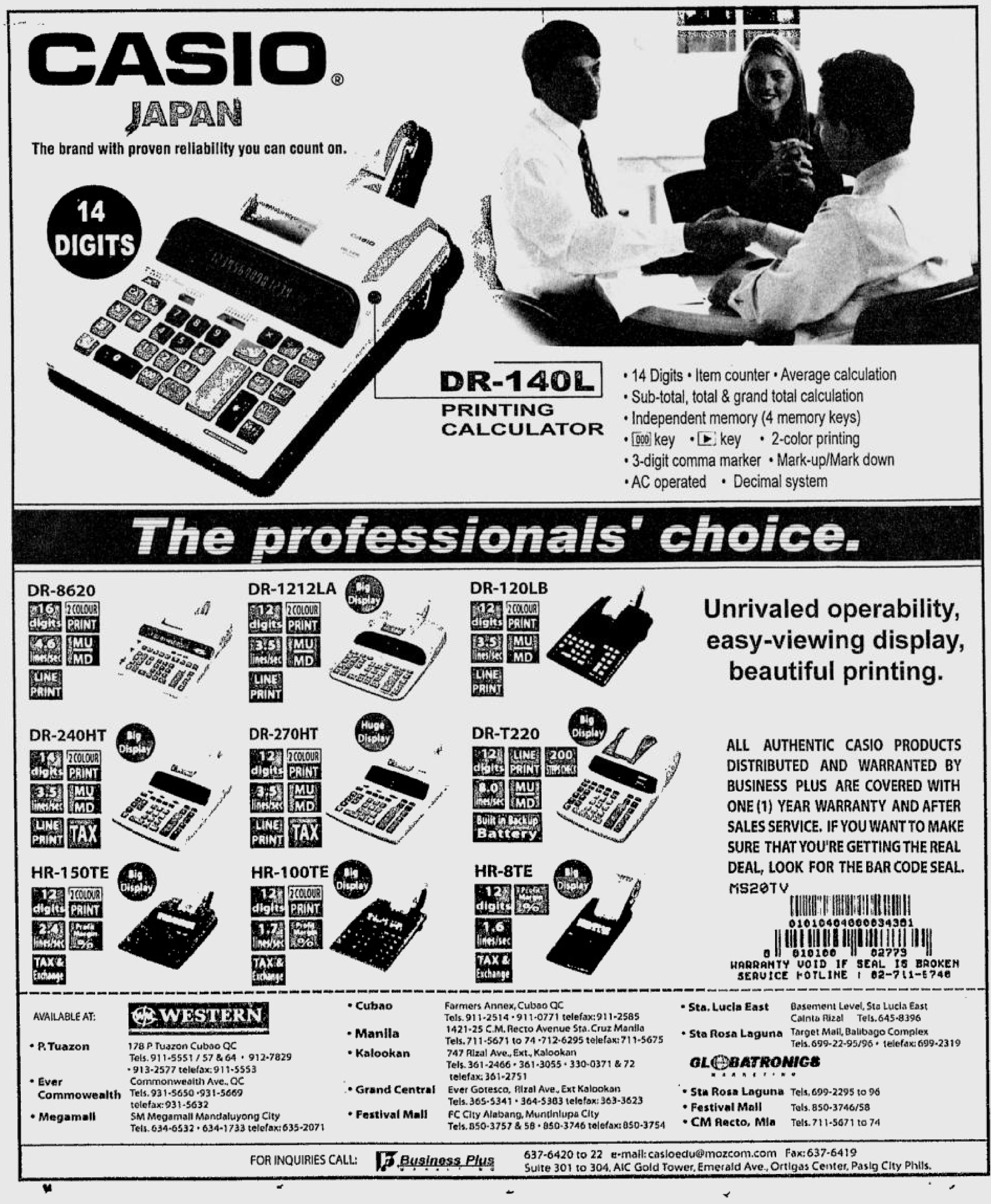
Come on, guys, Napocor is the biggest reason for the budget deficit this year, with its losses of P31 billion.

The $400 million in fresh loans will certainly add to its burden on the budget.

And why is that?

Because its P31 billion in losses this year only means that Napocor rates are still too low, as in "subsidized," for the simple reason that this cute administration wants to gain some cutie points to stay in power.

Like it or not, we have to get rid of this monster once and for all, and the faster we can do it, the better for all of us.



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Taxes eat up 46.4% . . .

From page B1

The big amount of taxes and fees paid by businesses here was one of the factors that placed the Philippines at 113th among 155 countries worldwide in terms of providing ease in doing business.

The study also highlighted the need to address bureaucracy-related problems in doing business. It showed that an average of 23 steps and 197 days are required for a company to complete licensing and permit requirements to continue operations. The averages among the East Asia Pacific countries are only 17 steps and 153 days.

The study also showed that the time and cost required in solving bankruptcies in the Philippines are 5.7 years and 38 percent of the estate value. The regional averages are only 3.3 years and 27.6 percent.

Amsberg said it was necessary for the Philippine government to address the problems hindering the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the country, as they compose the biggest number in the business sector.

To attain the target of higher economic growth, Amsberg said, the Philippine government should exert more effort to support the "micro" agenda.

"The Philippines is a country that has a lot of potentials—dynamic people and other national assets—but has fallen short of realizing those potentials," Amsberg said during yesterday's presentation of the World Bank study.

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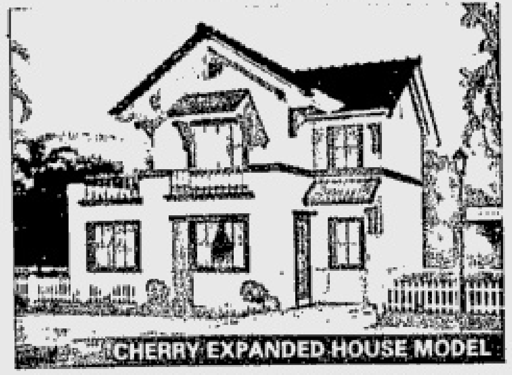

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LAGUNA LENDING CENTER

City of Calamba
Tel. No. (049)545-2194/4545 Fax No. (049)545-4646
E-mail Address: LBP-CALAMBAAC@mail.landbank.com

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposal together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the properties listed below will be received at the OFFICE of the Area Head, Area IV-B, Los Baños, Laguna, Land Bank of the Philippines, on September 29, 2005 not later than 2:00 PM, which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid, which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate.

DATE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID (P M)
29- Sept '05	1. Vacant Lot 8,360 sq.m.	Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City	20,875,500.00
	2. Lot 989 sq.m. with improvements residentia building	Bo. Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna	14,600,000.00
	3.Lot 625 sq.m. with Commercial Building	Bo. San Antonio Los Baños, Laguna	13,561,400.00

If for any reason the above mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from Laguna Lending Center, 3/F Distor-Lugo Bldg., Real Road, Calamba City. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS." The Winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to approval of the LBP approving authorities/ President of the Republic of the Philippines whenever applicable. LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO ANY, WAIVE FORMALITY AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP WILL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

Committee on Asset Disposal

(PDI-Sept. 15, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

AUDIO/ VIDEO

Harman Kardon Receiver
330model P28T 0917-8664346

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

Hobart Mixer Complete Set
P320T; Dough Proofer P6,500;
Bun Pan Rack P6T etc.
6340695 0918-9257616

BILLIARDS

17T UP NEW COMPL IMPTD 7767507

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Electric Casio Keyboard
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DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos. 925-47-93 to 97
Email: emb@gov.ph Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** for the proposed **Isabela Integrated Coal Mine-Mouth Power Plant Project** to be located in the **Municipalities of Benito Soliven and Naguilian and the City Cauayan.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Isabela Integrated Coal Mine-Mouth Power Plant Project to attend a public hearing on September 30, 2005, 1:00 PM at the **Manuel T. Respicio Coliseum, in the Municipality of Reina Mercedez.** This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR).

All Interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City c/o Reynaldo P. Alcanses, EIA Division Chief or with the Environmental Management Bureau – Region II (EMB) Nursery Compound, San Gabriel Village, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan prior to the said hearing.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB (Central Office and/or Region II) on or before **September 26, 2005.**

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Engr. Debbie Liao or Engr. Villalva at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 41.

Protect the environment ... Protect life...

(PDI - Sept 8 & 15, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late spouses
LEON C. VINOYA
and
RUFINA B. DELA CRUZ
executed an extrajudicial settlement and partition and Special Power of Attorney for PCI Bank Stock Certificates No.1551, 1549 and 1550 issued on November 14, 1983 and PCI Bank Certificates No. 2689, 2688 and 2690 issued on July 4, 1984 on September 5, 2005 as per Doc. No. 314 Page No.63 Book No. 8 Series of 2005 of Notary Public Richard L. Anolin of City of Manila
(PDI Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Certificate Nos. MFU038261-285 shares, MFU040754-299 shares and MFU043697-500 shares registered under the name of TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. were declared lost and is now subject for reconstitution by TRCFI: PDAF. If no contest is received within 1 year, new certificates will be issued by HSBC.
(PDI-Sept. 8, 15 & 22, 2005)

PERSONAL

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MTCHR1-30032 TCH3-36609
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30281 LET PBET PASSER

MKTG ASST 09184154441 JANET

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PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Motorshow 14 is back

MOTORSHOW INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, the biggest and the longest running auto and cycle show in the Philippines is back and raring to bring car lovers and enthusiasts to higher heights on Sept. 15 to 18, at the Forum, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), CCP Complex, on Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corporation (Petco), Motorshow 14 promises to surpass their previous tracks of accomplishments by engaging car aficionados to a more prestigious and well-established showcase of only the best in Philippine motoring and automobiles. With a bigger and better venue and an impressive line-up of products and activities, the 14th Motorshow will highlight the latest products, models, services and related technologies in the automobile and cycle industries.

Holistic education at SISM

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA (SISM) is an international school adapting the Singapore curriculum, utilizing syllabus, activity books and teaching materials approved by the Singapore Ministry of Education. SISM offers education for Nursery, Kindergarten 1 and 2, Primary 1 to 5 levels. Children will receive Trilingual Education in the English, Filipino and Chinese languages. The school is sufficiently staffed with young yet well-trained faculty headed by a Singaporean academic head. The SISM campus is very accessible, located in the new development of Paseo de Magallanes (in between BPI and Metrobank). The brand new campus will be completed by the first quarter of 2006. Since SISM keeps a small student-teacher ratio, interested parties should express their intentions to send their child to SISM by starting on the application requirements to secure their child's slot in the school. You may call their satellite office at 851-1221/851-0022/ 0927-9957686 and 0927-9957682 from Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit them at Unit 316, 3rd floor of The Gateway Centre, Paseo de Magallanes, Makati City.

BUM's new female endorser

BUM EQUIPMENT, A TRENDY TEENS APPAREL has come a long way. From its first token image model, action star Raymart Santiago in 1992 who modeled its men's line, they have been introducing a pool of matinee idols to become image models of the brand. Keempee de Leon followed, soon came Mark Anthony Fernandez, Juddah Paolo, Cholo and John Barretto, Josh Santana and now actor/Streetboys dancer Danilo Barrios. Their girls teens line had its pool of female models. BUM G had Raven Villanueva to first grace the billboards, followed by Heart Evangelista, Jill Yulo, Carla Humpries, Valerie Martinez and lastly Kyla. This month, a new female endorser will be unveiled. For sure you will get starstruck by her looks because she is definitely a survivor in her own right.

The Effie Nanas Dancentre stages 'Highlights II'

THE EFFIE NANAS DANCENTRE THE SCHOOL eagerly awaits and sets the stage for yet another momentous event with its grand recital entitled "Highlights II". This forthcoming ballet concert will be held at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, on Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m. The grand showcase will include performances of the Dance of the Hours and Don Quixote Variations plus a number of other exciting dances. For further inquiries, call them at (632)633-7871 or you may visit The Effie Nanas Dancentre at the 4th Level of the Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Island Caravan launches Thematic Tours 2005

SKOAL ADVERTISING INC IN COOPERATION WITH the Department of Tourism and Globe Handyphone present Island Caravan Thematic Tours 2005. The thematic runs have a wide range of various tour programs to choose from cultural, historical, heritage, adventure, pilgrimage, culinary, eco-tourism, golf and dive packages. The "North Luzon Rediscovery" is scheduled on Sept. 16 to 18. The "Dumaguete Sea Adventures" is on Oct. 7 to 9. A taste of "Bicol's Delight" is slated on Oct. 14 to 16. "Palawan Escape" is scheduled on Oct. 21 to 24. "Heroes' Journey" is on Oct. 28 to 30. The "Marian Pilgrimage" will be on Oct. 28 to 31. "Bacolod-Iloilo in Retrospect" is on Nov. 4 to 6. Scheduled on Nov. 8 to 12 is "Calabarzon: Master's Choice". "Agusan Adventure in Agusan del Norte" will be on Nov. 17 to 20. And in the last month of the year, "Island Caravan" will feature "Batanes Scenic Border" on Dec. 15 to 18. Another culinary tour before the year ends is "Kulinarya Pilipina" scheduled on Dec. 27 to 29. All tour programs of "Island Caravan" have scheduled dates, however, any program can run on any date for a minimum guaranteed number of fifteen passengers on a one week booking arrangement. For inquiries contact Skoal Advertising at 896-1910 or e-mail at skoal@skylnet.net, or visit www.islandcaravan.com.

The Legacy celebrates 'Mooncake Madness'

EXPERIENCE FAMILY FUN AND FORTUNE AT THE legacy's Mooncake Festival on Sunday, Sept. 18. The day-long event, "Mooncake Madness", will be a special event for guests and residents to mingle as they enjoy different games and activities such as Chinese Lantern-making and the Mooncake Dice Game. They can also look forward to entertaining performances by the Chinese Lion Dancers and the Children Fan Dancers, and a Chinese Opera dramatizing the origins of this special celebration. The Legacy at Montgomery Place by leading property developer Ayala Land, is a single-detached house development that caters to those seeking peace and quiet in the busy city. It is located at E. Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City, conveniently situated near universities, business hubs and shopping and dining establishments. Model units are available for viewing on-site. For further details on newly launched unit types and payment schemes, call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph. For information on the event, contact Jill Ang at 841-5523, or Ronnie Encarnacion at 759-4225.

New CloseUp endorsers to be revealed this Saturday

FOR SIX YOUNG TALENTS HANDPICKED FROM hundreds who auditioned all over the country, one night will prove the power of a smile. On Sept. 17, Saturday, the lucky couple who will become the new CloseUp endorsers will be chosen in a grand entertainment extravaganza - CloseUp to Fame: The Final Call. The three pairs who will compete for CloseUp stardom are Kris Martinez and Teena Hilario, Reyson Yap and Carine Cabebe, and Jayson Sy and Val Garcia. Out of the original 24 finalists, the Famous 6 survived tough weekly challenges and elimination to make it to the last leg of the contest. Commercial model/showbiz personality Plinky Recto and TV director Lino Cayetano served as their mentors and critics on the show. Hosted by Geoff Eigenmann and Heart Evangelista, the grand finals will be held at the Ultra and will be aired live on ABS-CBN. Guest performers include Sarah Geronimo, Geneva Cruz, Luke Mijares, Paolo Santos, Radha, Cueshe, Nikki Gil, Carlos Agassi, Bernard Palanca, Roselle Nava, and lots more. TV host/ star-maker Boy Abunda, along with former CloseUp models Luis Manzano, Karel Marquez, TJ Trinidad, and Rafael Rosell, will add more star power to the show, while pop-rock princess Barbie Almalbis will do her romantic rendition of the new CloseUp song. Admission is free. Gates open at 4 p.m., program begins at 6 p.m. For tickets, call 924-4101 local 5293 and look for Cates.

Bits
Clips

Venture 7 X-mas Bazaar '05

VENTURE 7 WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL CHRISTmas Bazaar at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila for two Sundays, Oct. 9 and Dec. 4. On sale will be a wide array of goods made locally and imported. Venture 7 is a group of dynamic and civic-minded women who are behind many successful fund-raising events and bazaars. These energetic ladies are Celine Bautista (president), Fanny Blanco (project chair), Lita Gelano, Chit Gohu, Fortune Ledesma and Linda Villadelgado (co-chair). For further details and inquiries, call 810-3307/818-8468 (Maricris), 372-3083/84 and 843-9507.

Chemworld seminar

CHEMWORLD FRAGRANCE INSTITUTE IS OFFERing a free seminar on perfume-making and aromatherapy every Tuesday, 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at their new office located at the 4th Floor Executive Business Center Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue. The seminar will cover historical background of perfumery and aromatherapy, introduction to essential oils and aromatics, fragrance notes and olfactive descriptions, profitable areas of application, market overview and hands-on session. The half-day seminar and hands-on training will give participants practical and technical knowledge on perfumery and aromatherapy, enough know-how to start a business as soon as they go home. And more importantly, raw ingredients and various packaging materials are readily available. Interested parties may call Alex Guiao at tel. nos. 890-9844 to 47 or mobile nos. 0917-8736547 and 0917-8736548 or send e-mail to info@ichemworld.com.

Whirlpool Warehouse Sale

WHIRLPOOL HOME APPLIANCES WILL BE holding its regular 2-day Warehouse Sale this Sept. 23 to 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in its warehouses in Quezon City and Cebu. Items on sale are Class B units which are brand new appliances but are slightly dented or scratched. Discounts on selected items can go up to 40 percent. Whirlpool appliances are widely known for their superior performance, advanced technology, and their durability and endurance. People who have Whirlpool appliances in their homes can attest to the long years of service of these units. Whirlpool's white line consists of refrigerators, freezers, microwave ovens, washers and dryers, and cooking ranges. The Warehouse Sale will be held simultaneously in the following addresses: For Metro Manila: #92 Kapiligan Street Quezon City. For Cebu: Lot 3, Block 5 Mandaue North Central Castilex Compound, Cabancalan Road Mandaue City. For further details, contact 712-7073 or 712-2830 for Metro Manila and (032) 345-3105, 345-3106 or 345-3109 for Cebu.

Writing workshop

HOW TO WRITE A GRANT PROPOSAL IS A ONE-day intensive workshop where NGO participants will go through a step-by-step procedure in reviewing what is entailed in a proposal, how to ensure you are following funding guidelines and what research one has to do to make sure your proposal is a fit with that of the funding agency. It will be conducted by John L. Silva. The whole day seminar will be held Sept. 30, Saturday, at the National Museum from 8:30 a.m. till 5 p.m. Workshop Fee: HOM partner organizations - P3,500; non-HOM partner organizations P4,000. The fee includes hand-outs, a CD, snacks and lunch, and a tour of the National Museum. Seats are limited so please call 843-5231/843-7044 or e-mail homla@info.com.ph to reserve your seat.

Club Elite Week

FASHION AND BEAUTY WALK, THE LIFESTYLE sections of Duty Free Philippines will celebrate its yearly Club Elite Week on Sept. 26 to Oct. 2, at its flagship store, Fiestamall. Members of Club Elite will enjoy a whole week of sponsored activities ranging from health and wellness exhibit, exclusive promotions, product launch and even cocktails. Capping of the event is D. Tour, an event produced and organized by Beauty & Fashion Walk, together with Jabez Travel & Tours. D. Tour (De-stress. Detoxify. Discover) is a health and wellness exhibit that will feature various spas and fitness destinations in the country. CE members and regular shoppers may avail of the free spa services and consultations from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. onwards. Likewise, hourly activities will take place during D. Tour such as free makeovers by David Salon, stress management from Brahma Kumari, massages by The Farm at San Benito, and other side events from participating sponsors and exhibitors. For more information about the Club Elite Week, call 853-5874 or 879-3574. For interested exhibitors for D. Tour, please get in touch with Jabez Travel & Tours at tel. nos. 687-5028 or 687-3073.

The Master's Gameplan

THE WOMEN EXECUTIVES FOR INTEGRATED life@work (We@Work) is a movement among women in business and profession. We@work believes that women are strategically placed in business and profession for a clear-cut purpose. And work is wherever you find yourself productively engaged today. Discover this critical role you are in and map-out your direction for optimum benefit. Discover the Master's Gameplan for you. This is a call to all women executives in business and profession to participate in this two-day conference on Oct. 8 and 9. (Saturday 8:30 a.m. and Sunday 3 p.m.). Cost per delegate is P1,600 to cover conference kit, meals and two days accommodation in The Legend Villas at Mandaluyong City. For more information, e-mail info@gmm-asia.com, or call and leave message to 825-1612 by stating "çonference" and return call to...

SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention

"IBAYONG TULUNGAN SA PABAHAY TUNGO SA MAIGTING NA KAUNLARAN"

SHDA accomplishment report

By EnP Marilu M. Alferez
National President
FY 2004-2005

1. SHDA Position on VAT

The SHDA Committee on Taxation has advocated for the passage of the adjusted VAT exemption ceiling for real estate transactions from P1.0 to P1.5 Million. As an output of said advocacy, BIR came out with Revenue Regulations 1-2005 implementing said increase as lobbied by SHDA.

The said BIR revenue regulation was superceded by RA 9337 providing for VAT exemptions for real estate transactions. As such, residential lot valued at P1.5 Million and below and house and lot and other residential dwellings valued at P2.5 Million and below are exempted from VAT. Such amount will be adjusted to their present values using the Consumer Price Index as published by the NSO not later than January 31, 2009 and every three years thereafter.

2. Increase in BP 220 Price Ceiling

SHDA advocated for adjustments in BP 220 price ceilings in collaboration with our allied partner, the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines (OSHDP). SHDA and OSHDP proposed for the increase in socialized housing price ceiling from P225,000 to P300,000. HUDCC issued last June 10, 2005 a circular to effect socialized housing price ceiling adjustment to P300,000.

3. Recognition of MRBs as compliance to the 20 percent Balance Housing Requirement

The SHDA Committee on Medium Rise Buildings was successful in its advocacy for HLURB to recognize MRB projects priced within the socialized housing price ceiling as an acceptable mode of compliance to the 20 percent balanced housing requirement under RA 7279.

4. SHDA advocacy on DENR STP requirement and quarrying stoppage

SHDA lobbied for DENR through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) with regard DENR memorandum requiring centralized sewage treatment plant in all subdivision. The SHDA advocacy, DENR agreed to proceed with the issuance of ECCs for all meritorious applications provided Developers shall provide a three-chambered, non-leaching septic tank for each housing unit in the subdivision project and the Developer shall tap each septic tank to the centralized drainage system of the subdivision.

Moreover, DENR has also lifted moratorium on quarrying activities in Quezon province which has resulted to lack of aggregates for construction materials.

5. Linkage with Key Shelter Agencies

SHDA has continuously worked with the shelter agencies of government in pursuit of streamlining housing programs and making effective housing program rules and guidelines. The SHDA-HDMF Task Force has been meeting regularly to discuss issues concerning housing programs of Pag-IBIG Fund specifically with regard the recently issued Circular 209 and appraisal guidelines. Likewise, the SHDA-HDMF Help Desk as a regular feature during SHDA activities has proven to be of great assistance to developers in effectively and efficiently addressing their concerns with the Pag-IBIG Fund.

6. Legislative Initiatives

- National Land Use Bill
- Magnacarta of Homeowner's Association
- Local Housing Board
- Proposed amendments to PD 957
- Amendment to Maceda Law and Transfer Tax

7. SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention

As in the past years, SHDA will conduct its annual National Developers Convention in cooperation with HUDCC. This year's convention is scheduled on September 15 - 16, 2005 at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, Bacolod City. This year's convention is the first to be held out of town, and is made possible by the lead and support of SHDA Negros Chapter headed by Mr. Eduardo Alunan.

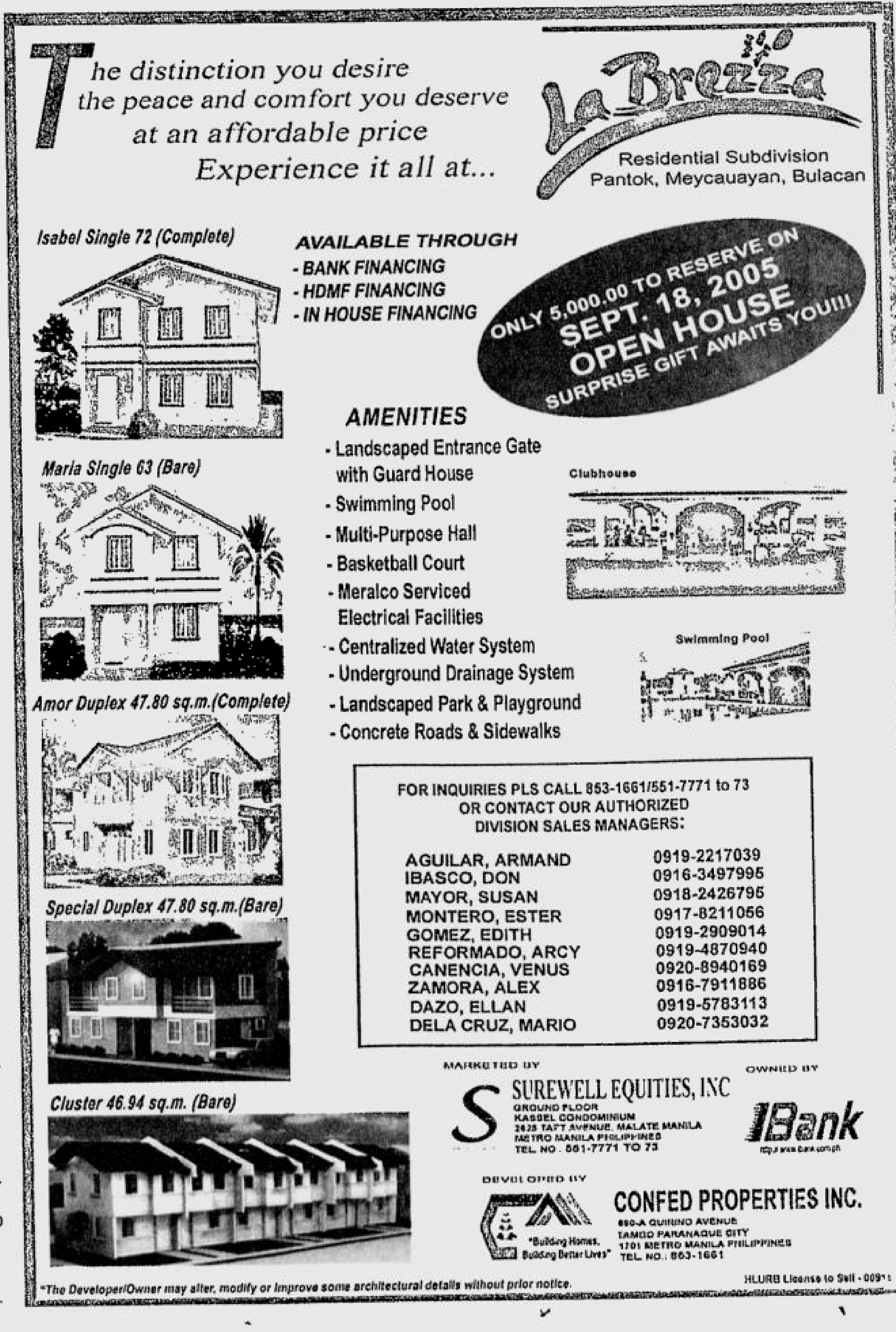
8. Housing Fair / Exhibit

The SHDA Annual Housing Fair/Exhibit also in cooperation with HUDCC was held at the Ayala Mall Lower Level at Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City on August 15 - 20, 2005

9. Study Tour / Visit

The 2nd SHDA Study Visit / Tour was held last November 1 - 7, 2004 in China. SHDA is set to conduct its 3rd Study Tour / Visit, this time covering the countries of Malaysia and Singapore tentatively scheduled in November 2005. The activity hopes to provide participants the opportunity to learn about successful programs and initiatives on housing and urban development of these countries. Moreover, the activity will also be an opportunity to establish linkage and network with housing organization

SHDA/ B7



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SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention

'Ibayong Tulungan sa Pabahay Tungo sa Maigting na Kaunlaran'

Messages

MY ESTEEMED GREETINGS TO THE OFFICERS and members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA) as you hold your National Developers Convention.

Your theme, "Ibayong Tulungan sa Pabahay Tungo sa Maigting na Kaularan," strengthens our common efforts to bring affordable and decent housing to the marginalized sectors of our society. I laud your association for sustaining the pace of our development through your various housing projects.

I hope that this convention would enhance the knowledge and capability of subdivision and housing developers and promote the highest standards in the industry.

If there is to be social and economic equity in our society, it is important that the cost of houses should be within the reach of ordinary Filipinos. Together, let us achieve our ten-point agenda and beat the odds towards national development and economic prosperity.

Mabuhay ang SHDA! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (*Sgd.*)
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA) as you hold your National Developers Convention.

SHDA is committed not just to updating and enhancing the knowledge of real estate practitioners, but also to supporting the government in carrying out the National Shelter Program. Your commitment is evident in the theme you have chosen for your convention, "Ibayong Tulungan sa Pabahay Tungo sa Maigting na Kaunlaran." The government needs the partnership of the private sector as we continue to face the challenge of making shelter security and homeownership a reality for our countrymen.

May this convention reinforce the admirable unity and sense of purpose of your organization.

Mabuhay po kayo!

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO (*Sgd.*)
Chairman
SHDA

ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA), I am pleased to welcome you to the 2005 SHDA - HUDCC National Developers' Convention.

This year's theme "Ibayong Tulungan sa Pabahay Tungo sa Maigting na Kaunlaran" underscores the commitment and partnership of the private developers with the Government under the helm of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). This convergence will surely translate into specific actions the policies and strategies envisioned by the housing sector.

Towards this end, SHDA will espouse for sustainable and innovative home financing, continued improvements and simplification in licensing and regulations for housing, and greater linkages with practitioners in the housing industry. All these, with the end in view of enhancing access and affordability for housing.

I enjoin everyone to take up the challenges that beset us as opportunities. Let us consolidate our efforts as we work for a better future.

Maraming salamat po!

WILLIE J. UY (*Sgd.*)
National President

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD THAT BESET THE housing sector are formidable. Our group, the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA), Inc. has continued to be in the forefront in promoting the welfare of developers and in the pursuit of efforts toward the betterment of the housing industry.

The conduct of the 2005 SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention exemplifies the collaboration between the Government in particular the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the private developers in addressing our common goal of providing quality and affordable housing. We have continued to partner with the government in addressing our country's burgeoning housing need.

With all these efforts, I am confident that we will fast track the production of new housing projects, enhance sustainable financing for housing, rationalize rules and regulations and surpass our targets and expectations. SHDA will continue to be in the forefront in professionalizing the industry and instituting reforms for the welfare of the practitioners in the housing sector. Moreover, SHDA will play an important role in ensuring that the housing sector will be the main engine for economic growth and development.

I look forward to a meaningful convention. Let us meet our challenges ahead with confidence.

Mabuhay at maraming salamat po!

EnP MARILU M. ALFEREZ (*Sgd.*)
Chairman of the Board

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association takes its annual SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention to the countryside, with sugarlandia as the maiden venue.

We, the developer-members of SHDA-Negros, are profoundly honored to be the host Chapter. With Bacolod City as destination, SHDA's effort is truly praiseworthy and confirms its solid commitment to amplify its services nationwide.

In step with tradition, this year's Convention promises to be highly informative, endowed with speakers excelling in their respective fields. As we journey through the plenary sessions and workshops, exchange views with each other and express advocacies to policymakers, let us focus our efforts thereafter towards building a more vibrant and dynamic society through affordable housing.

Mabuhay ang SHDA! Welcome to Bacolod City!

EDUARDO M. ALUNAN (*Sgd.*)
President, SHDA-Negros Chapter
Governor-Visayas, SHDA National

8-point agenda for FY 2005 - 2006

The SHDA Board of Governors for fiscal year 2005-2006 will continue the thrusts and sustain the gains that were achieved during the previous year. Focus will be made on the following 8-point agenda.

1. Organization of more regional chapters specifically in Pampanga, Bicol. Strengthening local chapters will bring services of SHDA closer to the members. Encouragement of more membership to SHDA.
2. Further improved member services - the flow of information to and from the general membership, through improved communications; e-mail, text and the establishment of the SHDA website which will be interactive and responsive to the concerns of members and challenges of the sector.
3. Projection of SHDA as the leading organization and a force to reckon with in the housing industry. Pursue tri-media (print, radio and television) to inform the public and the general membership not only of the advocacies but accomplishments as well of the organization.
4. Further strengthen / sustain relationship with government institutions, HUDCC, housing agencies - NHA, HLURB, NHMFC, HGC, HDMF and other institutions DENR, DLR, DA, DILG, Senate, Congress as well as other organizations relating to housing.
    - Pursue SHDA industry representation in these respective institutions through representation in their respective boards and / or regular meetings, seminars and fora.
5. Sustainability of SHDA operations and institutionalization of linkages with official SHDA partners and sponsors.
6. Activation / Convening of SHDA Standing Committees which will be responsive and attuned to the needs of the members and current issues and concerns on the housing industry.
7. Tie-ups with international organizations on housing and urban development - for exchanges and visits, learning from success stories and replication of good policies and programs on housing.
8. Crafting of a curriculum on housing geared towards the needs of developers. Pursue tie-up with educational institutions specifically Pamantasan ng Makati and AIM. Relatedly, the pursuit and conduct of interesting and relevant business meetings and similar fora that will encourage active participation and attendance of SHDA members.

Thanks to our partners and sponsors

A. OFFICIAL PARTNERS

Cemex Philippines
Pacific Pain (Boysen) Philippines, Inc.
Boral Plasterboard Philippines, Inc.
James Hardie Philippines, Inc.
Bradnam's Windows and Doors (Philippines) Inc. .

B. SPONSORS

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RCBC Savings Bank
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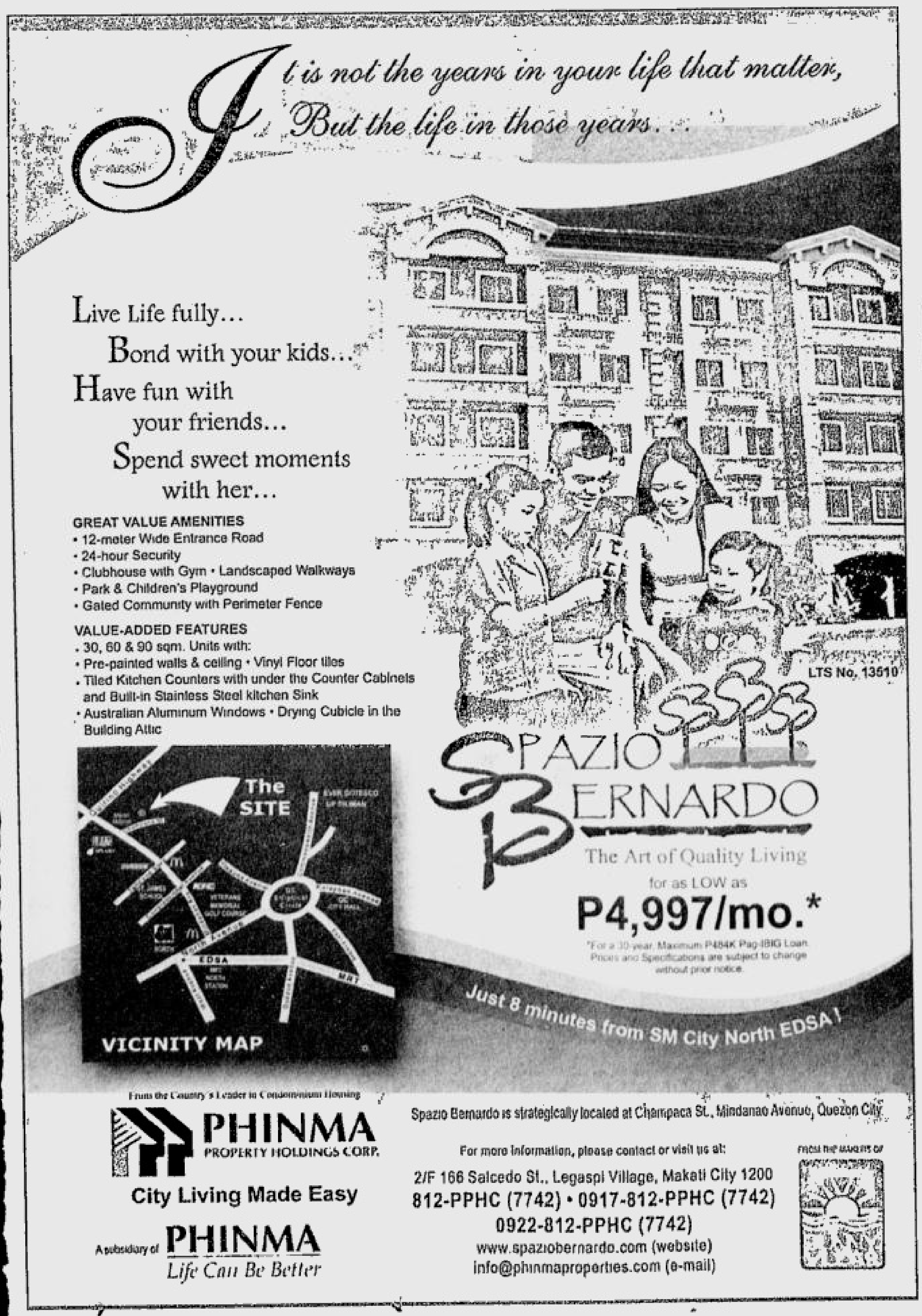
Makar Properties Dev't Corp.
Murphy Hardware & Construction Supply, Inc.
Rapid Forming Corporation
SHDA - Southern Mindanao
Union Galva Steel
Casimiro Development Corp.
Empire East Properties, Inc.
Forte Realty Corp.
Freedom to Build, Inc.
Prominence Property Dev't Corp.
R.J. Lhinet Dev. Corp.
Solar Resources, Inc.
Woodland Real Estate Dev., Inc.
Alunan Realty Dev't Corp.
Borland Development Corporation
Camella Homes, Inc.
Homeowners Development Corp.
PDB Properties, Inc.
Capitol Subdivision
Carmela Valley Subdivision
Jardine Land, Inc.
ML Electrical Supplies

The SHDA Board of Governors for fiscal year 2005-2006 will continue the thrusts and sustain the gains that were achieved during the previous year.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But the life in those years. . .
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TO BATANGAS
SITE

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBDIVISION

LOCATION: PALO ALTO, CALAMBA, LAGUNA
RIPE FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
GROSS AREA APPROX. 43 HAS.

FOR INQUIRIES:
TYRINE CHUA ☎ 242-1309

MERALCO
PLDT
SM DASMARIÑAS
TO CARMONA
TO TRECE MARTIRES
ROBINSONS PLACE
PHIL. CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
EUROMED LABORATORY
IGLESIA NI CRISTO
AGUINALDO HIGHWAY
HELLA PHILIPPINES
INT'L INST FOR RURAL RECONSTRUCTION
SITE
TO TAGAYTAY

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBDIVISION

LOCATION: SILANG, CAVITE
WITH ACCESS FROM
AGUINALDO HIGHWAY
8KM FROM ROBINSONS &
SM DASMARIÑAS
RIPE FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
GROSS AREA: APPROX. 70 HAS.

FOR INQUIRIES:
TYRINE CHUA ☎ 242-1309

SHDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006

Position in SHDA	Name	Company
Chairman of the Board	MARILU M. ALFEREZ	Robinsons Homes, Inc.
National President	WILLIE J. UY	Phinma Property Holdings Corp.
First-Vice President	BENIRANDO D. CLAUDIO	Makar Properties Dev., Inc.
Second Vice-President	EDUARDO M. ALUNAN	Alunan Realty Company
Board Secretary	BIENVENIDO S. UY	Stateland, Inc.
Treasurer	EPIFANIO N. SANTILLAN JR	Planters DB Properties, Inc.
Auditor	ZENAIDA M. MARQUEZ	Empire East Properties, Inc.
Public Relations Officer	ROMARICO T. ALVAREZ	P.A. Alvarez Properties Dev. Corp.
Governor	FRANCISCO J. BUENCAMINO	Breezewoods Development Corp.
Governor	JAIME I. HERNANDEZ	Homeowners Development Corp.
Governor	JOHN PAUL T. DY	Prominence Property Dev. Corp.
Governor	FELY T. RAMOS	Filinvest Land, Inc.
Governor	LILLIAN Y. REYES	Firm Builders Realty Dev. Corp.
Governor	LINDA A. TAN	R.J. Lhinet Development Corp.
Governor	PAUL H. TANCHI	Asiatic Development Corp.
Governor	MARIBETH C. TOLENTINO	Camella Homes, Inc.
Governor - Luzon	DENNIS R. LEVERIZA	Welmanville Development Corp.
Governor - Visayas	ROBERT J. HERMAN	Firm Builders Realty Dev. Corp.
Governor - Mindanao	FRANCISCO M. SORIANO	Francisco Soriano & Co., Inc.

SHDA BOARD OF ADVISORS

JESUS B. ATENCIO	Firm Builders Group of Companies
ANDREA V. BERNHARD	Nordland Realty Development Corp.
ROY D. CALLEJA	SGFI
BANSAN C. CHOA	Confed Properties, Inc.
JOSE S. DE GUZMAN	Forte Realty Corporation
NOEL S. GONZALES	EHPI Development Inc.
MARCELINO C. MENDOZA	C & P Properties International, Inc.
MARIANO D. MARTINEZ, JR.	Ceres Homes, Inc.

SHDA accomplishment . . .

From page B5

and agencies in Malaysia and Singapore.

10. Meralco Concerns

SHDA Committee on Public Utilities has unceasingly met with MERALCO Officials on their policy to reconsider its present position of not extending energization to projects unless 75 percent of investment is assured to be recoverable. Meralco has scrapped the preferred shares requirement and instead, they are now implementing cash advance scheme whereby developers are required to advance the expenses for electrical facilities.

11. Membership

Total membership both regular and affiliates have expanded by 20 percent. Chapter formation in the 4 other major regions in the country is a task that needs to be pursued in the next fiscal year.

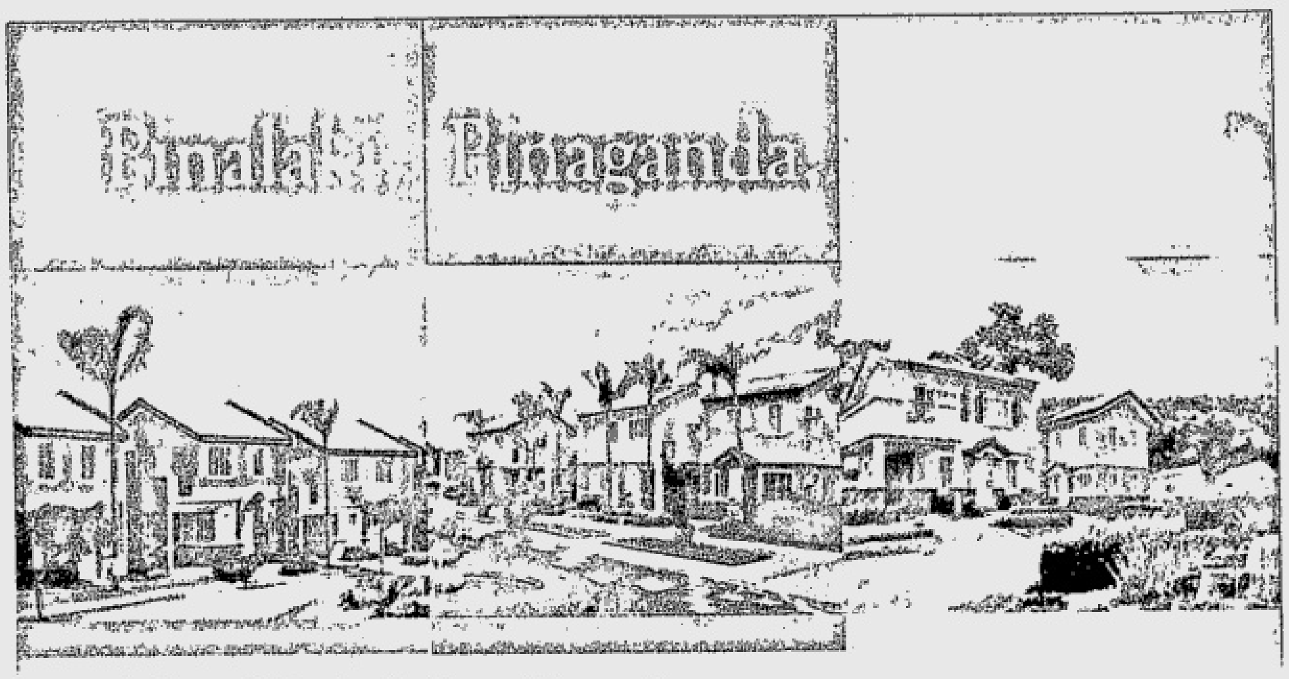
12. Gift Giving Activity

The SHDA Board conducted gift giving activity for the benefit of the orphans under the care of Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity in Antipolo City last December 28, 2004. Likewise, SHDA also extended assistance to typhoon victims in Aurora, Quezon and Mindoro province coursed through the Office of Vice-President Noli de Castro.

13. Financial Standing

SHDA's financial position improved further from last year with even stronger cash flows controlled expenses. This was due to special events and other activities that contributed to our cash inflow. Cash flows have been very strong with an average balance of not less than P1,000,000.

14. Acquisition of a permanent SHDA headquarters



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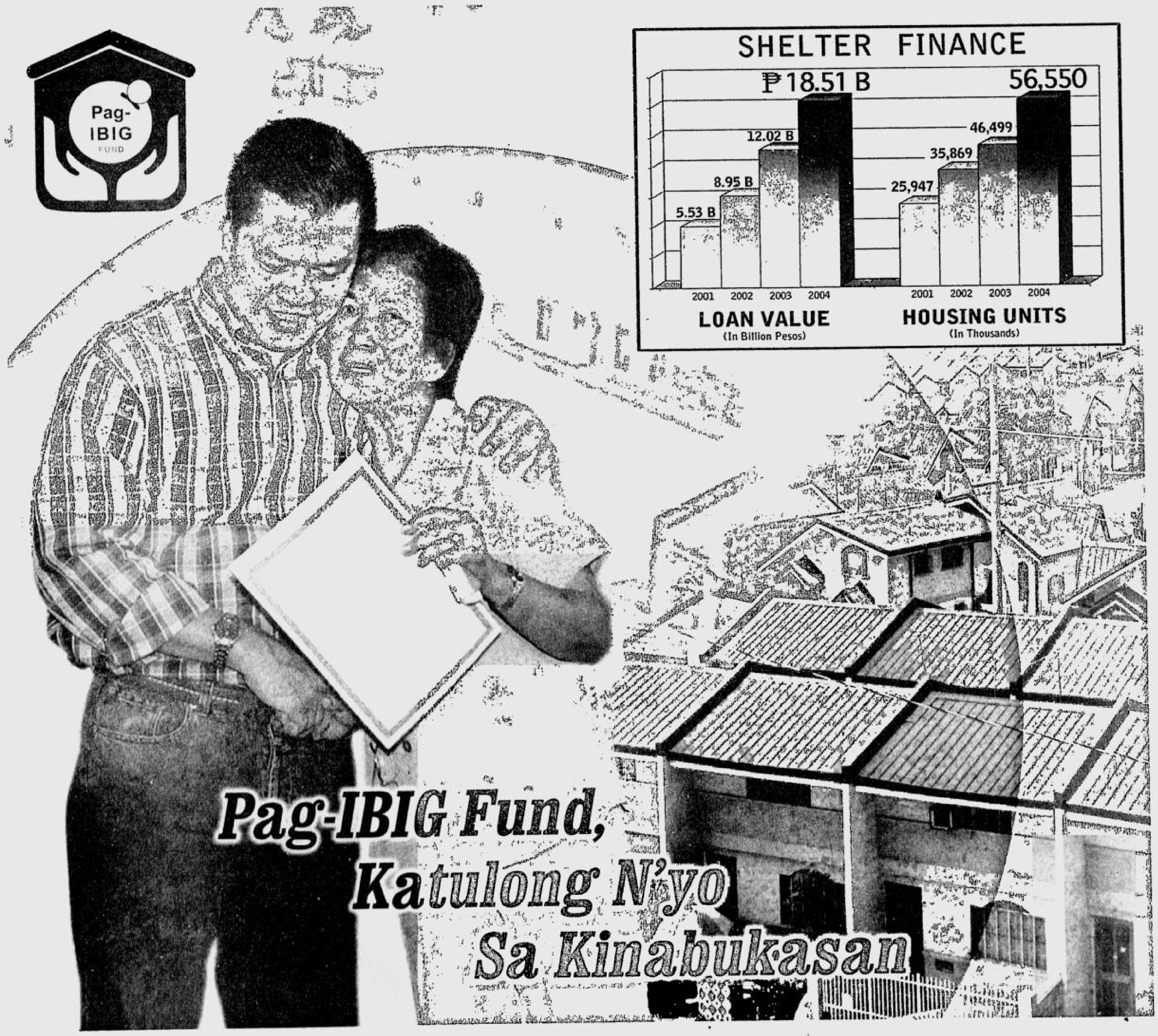

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Asphalting of Malabuyoc/ Alegria Road Sections
Location	Malabuyoc/Alegria, Cebu
Brief Description	Road Asphalting with Line Ditching
Approved Budget for the Contract	P13,483,795.02
Contract Duration	75 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract (Medium A category), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (as listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Sept. 08-15, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Sept. 08-15, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 15, 2005
4. Notice of results of Eligibility Check	Sept. 23, 2005
5. Issuance of bid Documents	Sept. 26, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	Sept. 28, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Oct. 10, 2005

The BAC-INFRA Secretarial will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative and Engineering Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P150.00) to the Province of Cebu Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC-INFRA Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the same address.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents (which includes Plans and Specifications) only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Cashier of the Province of Cebu.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Posted at PGSO, PIO & www.cebu.gov.ph

Approved:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
BAC-INFRA Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2005)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: Cebu Priority Bridges 2005, Package I 1. Reconstruction of Banco-banco Bridge (RCDG), Baljaan, Badian, Cebu 2. Reconstruction of Madridejos Bridge (RCDG), Alegria, Cebu 3. Reconstruction of Legaspi Bridge (FS), Alegria, Cebu 4. Reconstruction of Tomandoc Bridge (FS), Alegria, Cebu
Brief Description	: Construction of Reinforced Concrete Deck Girder (RCDG) and Flat Slab Bridges (FS)
Approved Budget for the Contract	: P8,312,243.29
Contract Duration	: 210 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract (Medium A category), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (as listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

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The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents (which includes Plans and Specifications) only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) to the Cashier of the Province of Cebu.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Posted at PGSO, PIO & www.cebu.gov.ph

Approved:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
BAC-INFRA Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-216

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

GOTHONG SOUTHERN SHIPPING LINES, INC.,
Applicant

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

For Cargo Liner Operation

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s to be offered/to be offered
M/V DON CARLOS SR	Cebu City - Isabel - Manila - Isabel - Cebu City	Carriage of Cargoes

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Cebu	Sun	12:00 NN	Isabel	Sun	5:30 PM
Isabel	Mon	5:30 PM	Manila	Wed	3:30 AM
Manila	Sat	4:00 PM	Cebu	Mon	7:00 AM
Cebu	Tue	4:00 PM	Isabel	Tue	9:30 PM
Isabel	Wed	12:30 PM	Manila	Thu	10:30 PM

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Class A	Class B	Class C
From	To			
Cebu City	Isabel	P359.13	P287.50	P233.77
Isabel	Manila	P1,091.59	P922.92	P751.53
Manila	Cebu	P1,155.13	P922.92	P751.53

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation if applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on Sept. 15, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, The Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 13th day of September 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI--Sept. 15, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES OF MORE OR LESS 18,000 BAGS NFA RICE FROM TABACO/LEGAZPI PORT TO ORMOC CITY

The National Food Authority, Regional Office Legaspi City invites all qualified Vessel Owners with a minimum load capacity of 17,000 bags rice with standard weight at 50 kilograms to apply for eligibility to bid for the provisions of freight services of more or less 18,000 bags NFA rice from Tabaco/Legazpi Port to Ormoc Port

Route	Estimated Volume For shipment (In bags of 50 kg.)	Estimated Budget for the Contract to be Bid based on General Operating Fund
Tabaco/Legazpi Port to: Ormoc City	18,000 bags	P525,600.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 15-23, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 15-26, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
3. Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 29, 2005	10:00 AM
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids/ Eligibility Check & Opening of Bids	Oct 12, 2005	10:00 AM

The venue of pre-bid and bidding conferences will be held at the 2nd Floor of NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non transferable/non-refundable registration fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

To provide ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids, prospective bidders may secure the needed eligibility requirements and other related documents at the time the invitation to apply for eligibily and to bid is first advertized.

For further inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers:(052) 480-7933/480-7015/480-7085/820-0018 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – September 15, & 22, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel No 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC – Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2005-2007 WELL CEMENTING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR PNOC-EDC DRILLING PROJECTS

EDC 05 –153

The Approved Budget is – **US$4,082,400** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 730 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F. T. Tolibas) starting **September 1, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand (P1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 9, 2005, 10:00 A.M.** at the Pre-Bid Conference Room, 1st Flr., Bldg. 5, PNOC-EDC, PNPC Complex, Merritt Rd., Taguig, Metro Manila.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on September 21, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 15, 2005)

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 3

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 3 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 3). ADP Phase 3 involves the development and privatization of the approximately: (1) 548-square meter portion of Nichols Loop located at Nichols Interchange, along South Superhighway, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City; (2) 86-square meter portion of the Tricycle Terminal Area in Fort Bonifacio; and (3) 1,143-square meter temporary quarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 3 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for ADP Phase 3 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents starting on 19 September 2005 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php2,000.00, for each TOR, payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 05 October 2005. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that form part of ADP Phase 3, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 3 COMMITTEE (ADPCom-3)
Bases Conversion Development Authority
2/f Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave.,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 816-6666 or 816-1043.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Phase 3 Committee

(PDI-Sept. 15, 19 & 26, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PUBLIC BIDDING)

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation** (PhilHealth), wishes to invite bidders for the **RISC SERVER and PROCESSOR / MEMORY BOARD FOR SUNFIRE V1280 SERVER.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from September 15, 2005 to September 28, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) Room 1107, 11th Floor, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 9,250.00

The PhilHealth had provided funds for this project. The approved budget for this contract is Php18,500,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 29, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1604).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on October 20, 2005 on or before 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the PhilHealth's bundy clock located at the lobby of 18th floor. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using **the non-discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amounts:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 185,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 277,500.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 462,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php18,500,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI--Sept. 15 & 22, 2005)

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Virgilio Ricamara Buhay

of Santa Cruz, Marinduque

Passed away in Quezon City on September 14, 2005 at the age of 83.

His late wife **Magdalena Principe Buhay**; children **Vicencio** and **Eileen**, **Vedasto** and **Delilah**, **Valerio** and **Lori**, **Venus** and **Carina**; grandchildren **Lynda**, **Danielle**, **Patrick**, **Elena**, **Jordina**, **Jancine**, **Jorel**, **Jason** and **Joel**; and great-grandchild **Callan** and relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lies in state at Funeraria Paz Chapel C10, Araneta Ave., Quezon City, viewing will be held from Thursday September 15 at 1:00 PM till Friday.

A special mass will be offered on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 11 AM. Cremation will follow the special mass.

Mercedes Margallo Locsin

of Daraga, Albay

Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband Jose G. Locsin, Sr. at 11:44 A.M. on September 12, 2005 at the age of 81.

Her loving children ***Evelyn & Ernest***, ***Josephine & Jose*** (†), ***Roberto & Cindelyn*** and ***Jose Jr. & Brenda***, grandchildren, ***Eric John***, ***Erlyn Mae***, ***Joseph Philip***, ***Joanne Marie***, ***Rocilyn***, ***Regina***, ***Richard***, ***Robert John Bernadine***, ***Bernice*** and ***Beverly***, great grandchildren, ***De Angeline Fatima***, ***Rouel Alonzo***, ***Andres Joaquin***, ***Marissa*** and ***Mia Rose*** and sisters ***Fe Amaranto***, ***Suzanna*** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 22 First Park, Daraga, Albay.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Daraga Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tahao Road, Legazpi City.

Renato Constantino

March 10, 1919 – September 15, 1999

On the 6th anniversary of his death, his family remembers him with love and pride.

"The constant deterioration of our society has been accompanied by the popular adoption of the ideology of self-interest. The obsession with the pursuit of private gain has become an institutional imperative of a society whose traditional institutions are in the process of collapse. No serious countervailing force offers a brake against this trend. Every field of endeavor has suffered the erosive action of corruption. In the practice of politics and government, corruption and crime have been perfected with a scientific precision that has made the practitioners more cynical and the electorate more apathetic. In business, the pursuit of private gain at the expense of the public has become the rationale for expansion and growth .... Public service has become an opportunity for private gain. The criminal, instead of being hunted, is now ensconced in the comfortable seats of power. We have degenerated into a frontier town where the law is cupidity, might and treachery.

"Crime and the Cult of Individualism"
Weekly Graphic, February 21, 1968

RODOLFO G. MATUNDAN, M.D.

Passed away on Sunday, September 4th, 2005 in Delaware, USA.

Born in the Philippines on November 7, 1932, he is the son of the late **Dr. Gaudencio Matundan** and **Beatrice Garcia Matundan**.

Dr. Matundan was a doctor for New York State and for the state of Delaware. He was also a Mason and a member of the Shrine.

Dr. Matundan is survived by his wife, **Lerma Lhee Matundan**; two daughters, **Marites Matundan Modina** and her husband **Rick** of the Philippines, and **Jillian J.P. Matundan** of Delaware, USA; two brothers, **Conrado Matundan** and his wife **Jovita** of Sacramento, CA and **Romeo Matundan** and his wife **Lydia** of Richmond, CA; one grand daughter, **Erika Modina**; three nephews, **Mitchell**, **Gerard**, and **Rommel**; one niece, **Marion**; one great nephew, **Philip Conrad**; and three great nieces, **Misha**, **Jenae** and **Agalae**.

His body lies in state at Lumbang Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Friday, September 16, 2005 after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

DEATH NOTICE

DANIEL GREGORIO SR.

Died on Sept. 13, 2005 at age 86 after a lingering illness.

His body lies in state in his residence in Tarcan, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Maniego Cemetery, Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan after the 2pm Mass.

ERRATUM

In the Obituary Advertisement of Department of Labor and Employment regarding the demise of Juan "Johnny" C. Tan published in this paper September 14, 2005, the quotation from Blas F. Ople was inadvertently printed as *"A pillar in the Philippine labor movement. A man of God, a man for others. The embodiment of integrity, intelligence, and patriotism in labor leadership."* It should have read as *"The embodiment of integrity, intelligence, patriotism in labor leadership."*

Our apologies

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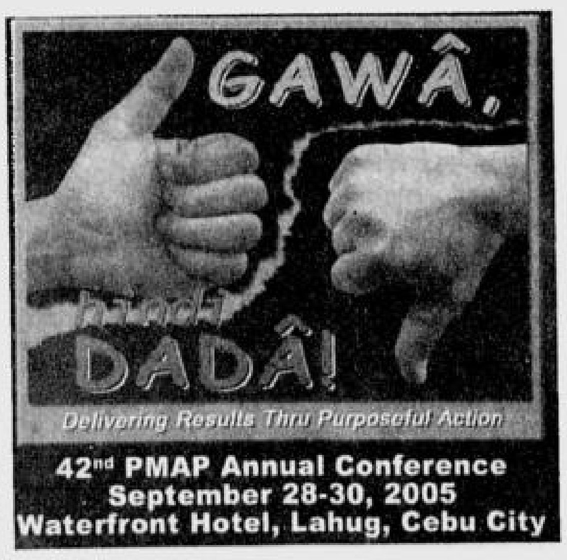
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The Country is Hungry for Actions, Not Words!

There is a disturbing research conclusion that states: Despite all their activity, only a small fraction of managers actually get something done that really matters or moves their organization forward in a meaningful way. In other words, a great majority of managers are engaged in mindless activity and unproductive talk, rather than purposeful action.

One of the main barriers to getting things done is the tendency to treat talking about something as equivalent to actually doing something about it. In some organizations, there seem to be an unspoken, but powerful belief that once a decision has been made to do something, no additional work is needed to make sure it is implemented. Likewise, there are many cases wherein holding meetings to discuss problems and their solutions and preparing written reports are mistaken for actually doing something, While rhetoric is frequently an essential first stop towards taking action, just talking about what to do isn't enough. Nor is planning for the future enough to produce that future. Something has to get done and someone has to do it.

While experimentation and flexibility are important to companies, the most critical challenge is exactly the opposite: determined, persistent and relentless action-taking to achieve a purpose against all odds. Driven by deep personal commitment to the goal that cuts our distractions and overcomes difficulties, purposeful action is not a mere flirtation with ideas. It is not the superficial attempt to achieve something. It is taking action to produce certain results with undivided resolve.

"Gawâ, hindi Dadâ!"

This is the PMAP Annual Conference message for 2005. This is a relevant subject at a time when we need quick answers and concerted action to address our country's woes. It is a theme that will be appreciated by different types of organization in all sectors of society who desire to improve the level of their performance. The conference shall be akin to a roadmap, where participants shall be armed with a mindset of urgency and collective action, yet made clearly aware of the pitfalls, dead-ends and detours along the way. It is a journey, taking of the initial plans and heading towards the final results, that will be surveyed from the individual, organizational and national points of view.

To join PMAP's 42nd Annual Conference, call (632) 726-1581, 726-1588 or 726-1532 or email pmap@pmap.org.ph.

SEC files criminal charges against CAP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission yesterday filed criminal charges against College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. allegedly for engaging in the unauthorized sale of education plans.

The pre-need firm's permit to sell was suspended by the corporate regulator last year.

In a 24-page complaint filed with the Department of Justice, the SEC cited the officers and board directors for engaging in 6,434 counts of unauthorized sale of education plans and for their failure to comply with securities laws and the pre-need rules: CAP president Enrique Sobrepeña Jr., corporate secretary Rafael Evangelista Jr., assistant corporate secretary Romela Bengzon, and all the members of the board.

The SEC accused CAP of selling educational plans even though the pre-need firm had no more registered plans to sell. The regulator said that, based on a monthly sales report CAP submitted to SEC, there was an over-issuance of plans, or the sale of plans over and above the approved P5 billion worth of fixed value plans approved in October 2002.

SEC said CAP sold 6,434 unregistered plans worth P325.3 million between June and August 2004. Of this, P47.96 million have been paid by plan holders. The SEC's nontraditional securities earlier certified that CAP's P5 billion worth of fixed value education plans were sold out as of June 2004.

The SEC also said CAP failed to account for the amount paid by plan holders of unregistered and oversold pre-need plans between June and August 2004 even after the regulator ordered them to do so.

When asked to comment, a CAP official said the pre-need firm complied with the SEC's orders as soon as it could. CAP immediately ordered its 33,000 sales agents nationwide to stop selling plans.

"Sales made after could only be attributed to the lag-time in disseminating information and not on any willful defiance of the Commission's orders," the official said.

CAP also said it "substantially" complied with the SEC directive to preserve the proceeds from these sales.

"All collections subsequent to the suspense payments were treated by CAP as deposits from prospective plan holders, and hence refundable," the official said.

To date, CAP has refunded a total of P10 million.

CAP has over 700,000 plan holders. On Sept. 1, it filed for rehabilitation and sought the Makati Regional Trial Court's permission to suspend payment to its creditors and plan holders.

CAP told the court that its assets were not enough to settle its obligations.

OFWs stumble over DST

THE DOCUMENTARY STAMP tax imposed on overseas cash transfers to the Philippines could hamper the flow of migrant remittances through the formal banking channel, an Asian Development Bank study said.

The study on Southeast Asian workers' remittances said some migrant workers were being lured to send cash through informal channels to avoid high transaction costs. It added that efforts could also be made to "lessen the informality on the remittance-receiving side."

Informal channels refer to unlicensed or unregulated operations such as friends, acquaintances or other travelers.

"In the Philippines, a potential disincentive to using formal channels could be the government's DST," the study said.

The government collects a DST of 30 centavos per P200 of remittance.

Some local bankers estimated that remittances through informal channels were double those being captured by the banks. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, however, assumes that money sent through the informal channel was only 20 percent higher than remittances coursed through banks and licensed money transfer agencies.

According to the ADB's study, about 38 percent of the recipients in the Philippines prefer the informal method. The rate is 26 percent higher than that in Indonesia.

One of the reasons why many are using the informal channels is the unattractive pricing of banks, the study indicated. *Doris C. Dumlao*

WINDBLOWN
Windmills along the coastline of Bangui, Ilocos Norte generate enough power to satisfy the requirements of Northern Luzon. The Philippines, which buys nearly all its fuel requirements abroad, is turning to alternative energy and indigenous resources to cut its import bill amid record oil prices. REUTERS

Small banks worry over VAT on PDIC

By Doris C. Dumlao

SMALL BANKS ARE worried over the government's plan to slap value added tax on the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.'s collection assessment, saying this would hurt depositors and borrowers.

The Chamber of Thrift Banks and the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines warned that the plan of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to tax PDIC's insurance assessments would be disadvantageous to the banking public.

RBAP president Gen. William K. Hotchkiss III (ret.) said that the VAT, being an indirect tax, would very likely be passed on by the PDIC to banks, resulting in higher intermediation cost to the latter.

Aside from squeezing bank earnings, Hotchkiss said this could also result in lower interest rates paid by banks on deposits and higher rates charged on lending.

CTB president Benjamin Yambao said that ultimately, the consumers would most likely bear the brunt of the additional tax.

Decreasing the deposit rates would further dampen the incentive to save, Yambao said.

"Some depositors are already complaining about low interest rates on deposits," Yambao said. "Increasing lending rates will be a disincentive to small borrowers for whom every peso counts."

The BIR and the PDIC are at odds over the applicability of the VAT on the latter's collection assessment. The Department of Justice will soon issue an opinion on the matter.

RP unlikely to get debt reprieve

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK IS NOT keen on granting the Philippines and other developing countries debt relief as a way of boosting their economies.

When asked by reporters about the bank's response to a call for debt relief made by House Speaker Jose de Venecia, World Bank country director to the Philippines Joachim von Amsberg suggested that the best way for the country to address its lingering fiscal problem was to improve tax collection efficiency.

He said it was healthier for economies to depend on internal measures than on external assistance, in the form of debt relief, in solving fiscal problems.

"I don't think there is a magic formula for resolving fiscal imbalance. The solution has to rely on tax reforms," Amsberg said in a press briefing yesterday on the results of the World Bank's "Doing Business" study.

Amsberg said though that the World Bank commends the Philippines for leading other developing countries in seeking debt relief to help them achieve their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He said it indicated the desire of the Philippines to stay on track of the MDGs.

The MDGs, as agreed upon by United Nations' member-countries in 2000, aim to improve human condition, by eradicating extreme poverty and properly delivering health and other basic services by 2015.

The United Nations Development Program, which monitors the progress of countries in fulfilling the MDGs, said that under current trends, the world is likely to miss achieving the goals by 2015. The UNDP cited huge debts of several poor and middle-income countries, which force some governments to spend more on debt servicing rather than on basic services.

The UNDP said the Philippines could seek some form of debt relief, since a huge portion of its revenue was earmarked for debt servicing.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

CREPES Suzette

Return of elegant tableside serving

The Mandarin Oriental's Tivoli rolls in the salad, roast and flambé trolleys for a blast-from-the-past dining experience

By Michaela Fenix
Contributor
Photos by Roger Carpio

A RESTAURANT NEEDS TO change for it to be new again. This is because the business has to deal with changing tastes and diners who constantly need to try something new.

The Tivoli of the Mandarin Oriental Manila required a month for a change of face. Interior architect Sonia Santiago Olivares was still working on the complete look when we visited.

It's brighter and airier without the curtains. The Roxas room wall has been taken down and replaced with glass. There are huge paintings depicting sunset colors for the other walls. The same chairs have been refurbished with trendier upholstery. The flower arrangements no longer dominate the room.

The wines have not been put on display in the glass cases that also serve as divider for one area. "We still have to find out how many glasses these cases can hold," she said. She wanted cases without steel support but said the technology wasn't available here yet.

Apart from décor, restaurants also need to change the menu.

Fancy cookery

The Tivoli decided to serve food that harked back to the past. And the past is tableside or *guéridon* serving.

The necessary equipment for *guéridon* is the trolley, and the kind depends on what is being served. If you've had Caesar's salad in the past, then you know that the salad trolley is wheeled in. There is also the prime rib trolley, which is still used today. Then there is the flambé trolley, a portable gas stove considered passé for years now.

That day, the flambé trolley was very much around, giving us dessert of crêpes Suzette that provided a flaming drama to end our meal. The waiters, whose job it was to do this fancy cookery, were trained by a pro. Peter Fischer, who is from The Bellagio in Las Vegas, hovered around them, making sure that lessons were learned at the renewed Tivoli.

Classic French

To go back to this past fine dining experience is really to go classic French. The first course was what the menu called seafood dome. It's the Plateau de Fruits de Mer—shellfish like oysters, mussels and clams then crabs, lobster and shrimps poached and served on a mound of ice. Together with the seafood was a series of sauces to add flavor to the dish.

We had Tournedos Rossini, a French dish of beef short loin with a sauce of Madeira and served with *foie gras* and truffles. There, too, was Pan-Fried Fillet of Bass and Shrimps Pernod, those possible to be cooked tableside, too.

The *guéridon* style was recalled at a recent lunch by Christian Pirodon, general manager of the Hotel InterContinental Manila. He used to be the restaurant manager at L'Hirondelle, the old Mandarin fine dining restaurant that became the Tivoli. He recalled cooking duck *a l'orange* tableside even if it took an hour-and-a-half to get the dish done properly. He said it was the showy part of his job and joked about throwing pots and pans around as part of the act.

Life-long skills

The many waiters he trained, however, always remembered him because the skills he taught them had remained with them to this day. One of them, Raul Ramos, operations director of Restaurant 9501, said he still knew how to serve pressed duck and any flambé you might wish for. The training was so strict and

RETURN/ C2

TABLESIDE preparation of Crepes Suzette at the Tivoli. That's David Thomas, Mandarin's food and beverage executive assistant manager, watching closely.

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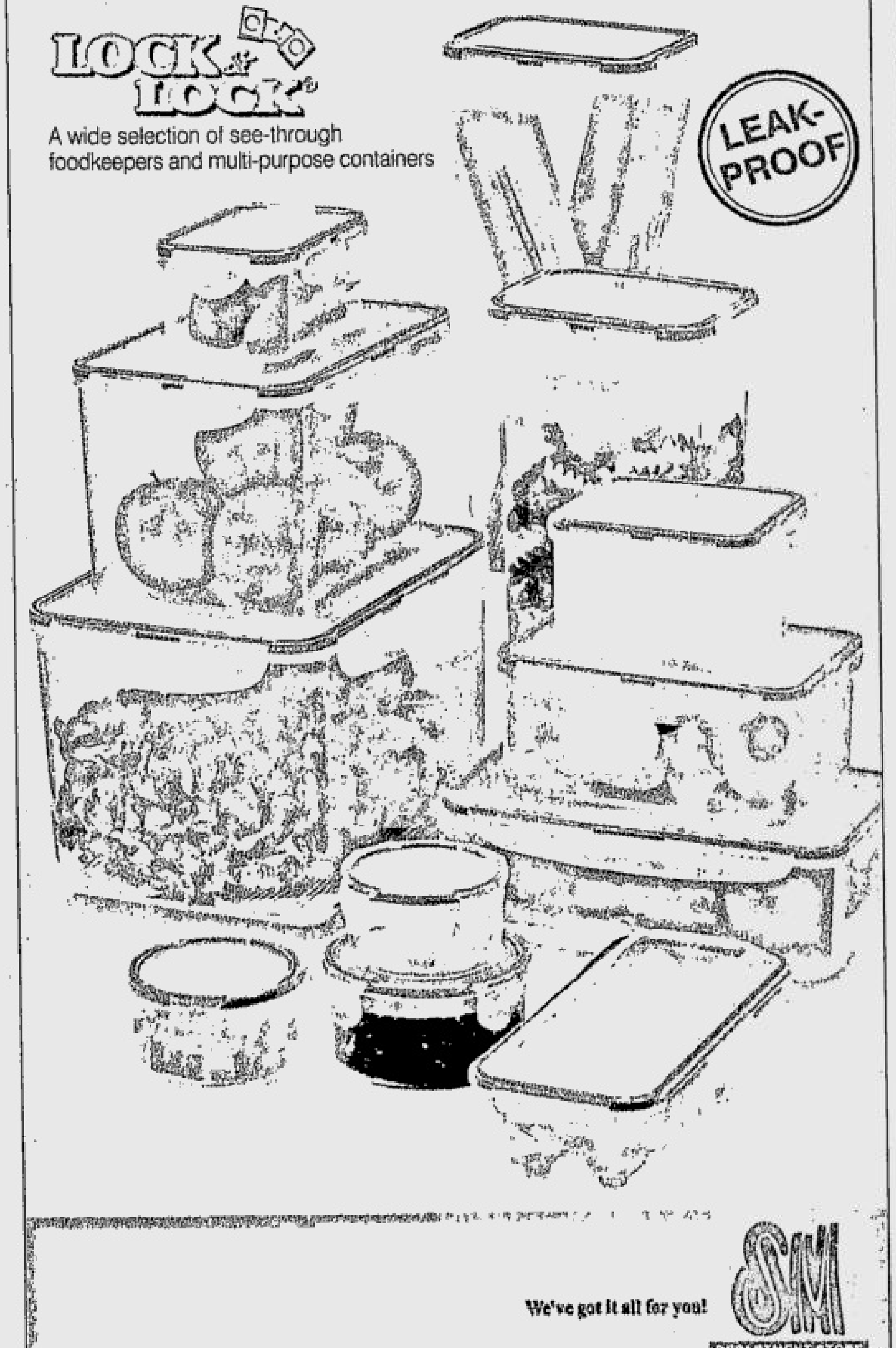

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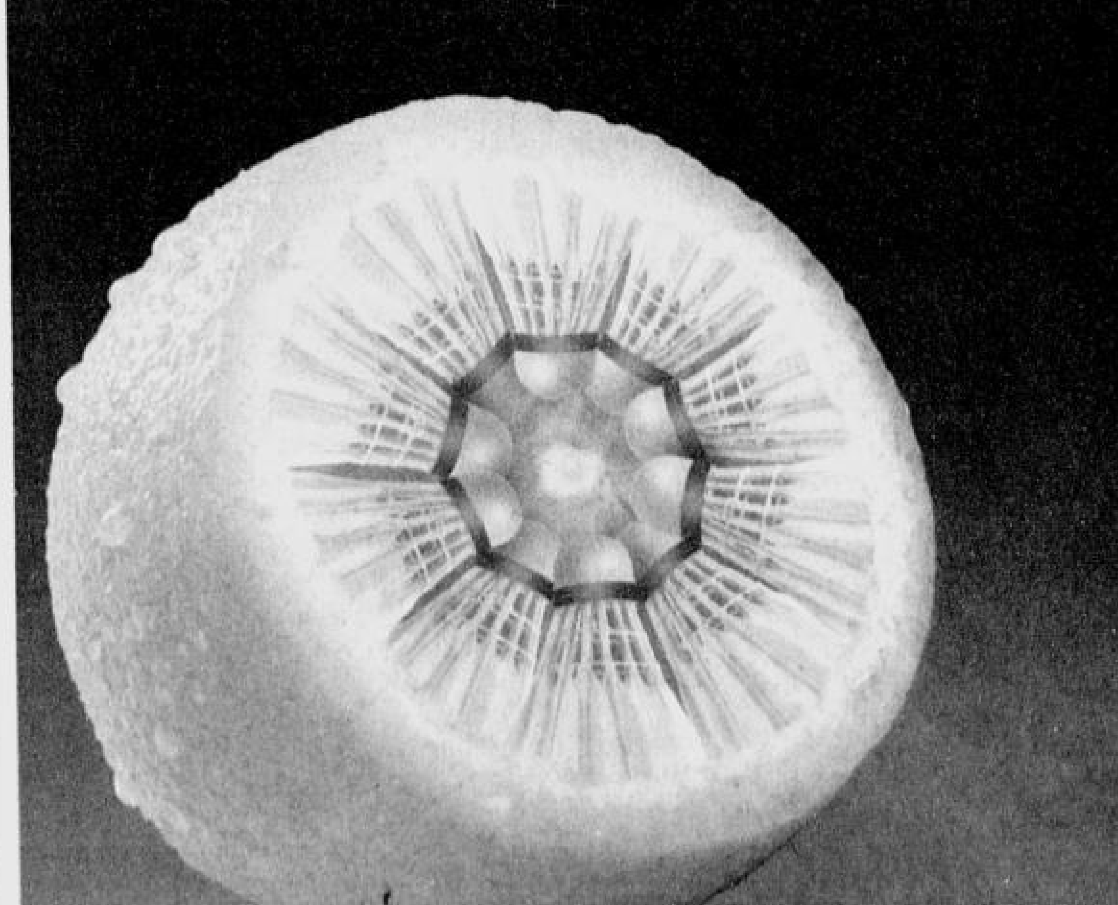

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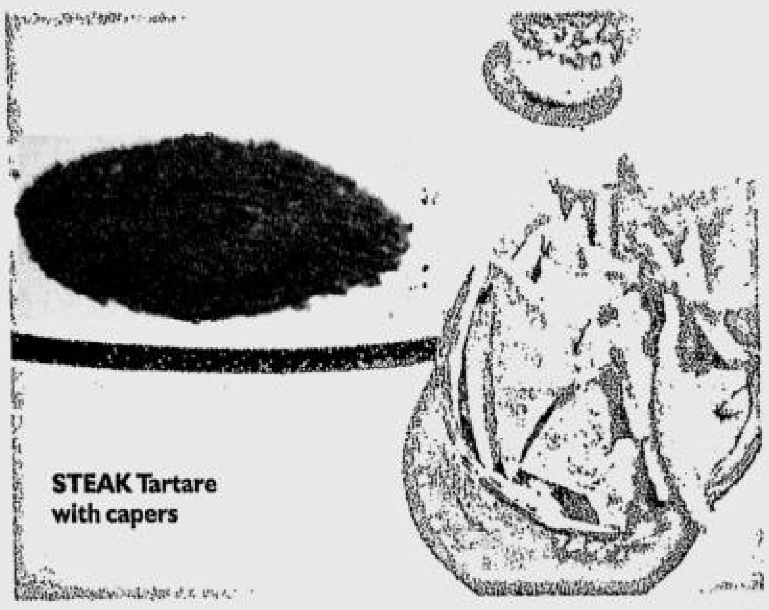
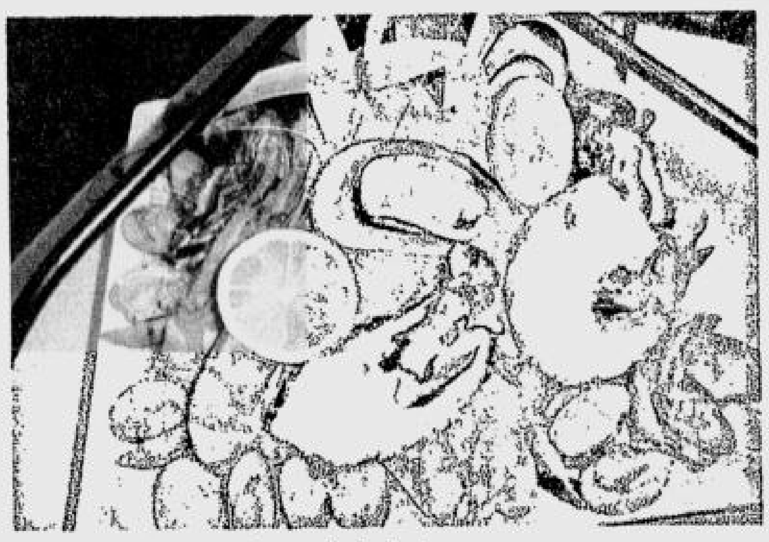
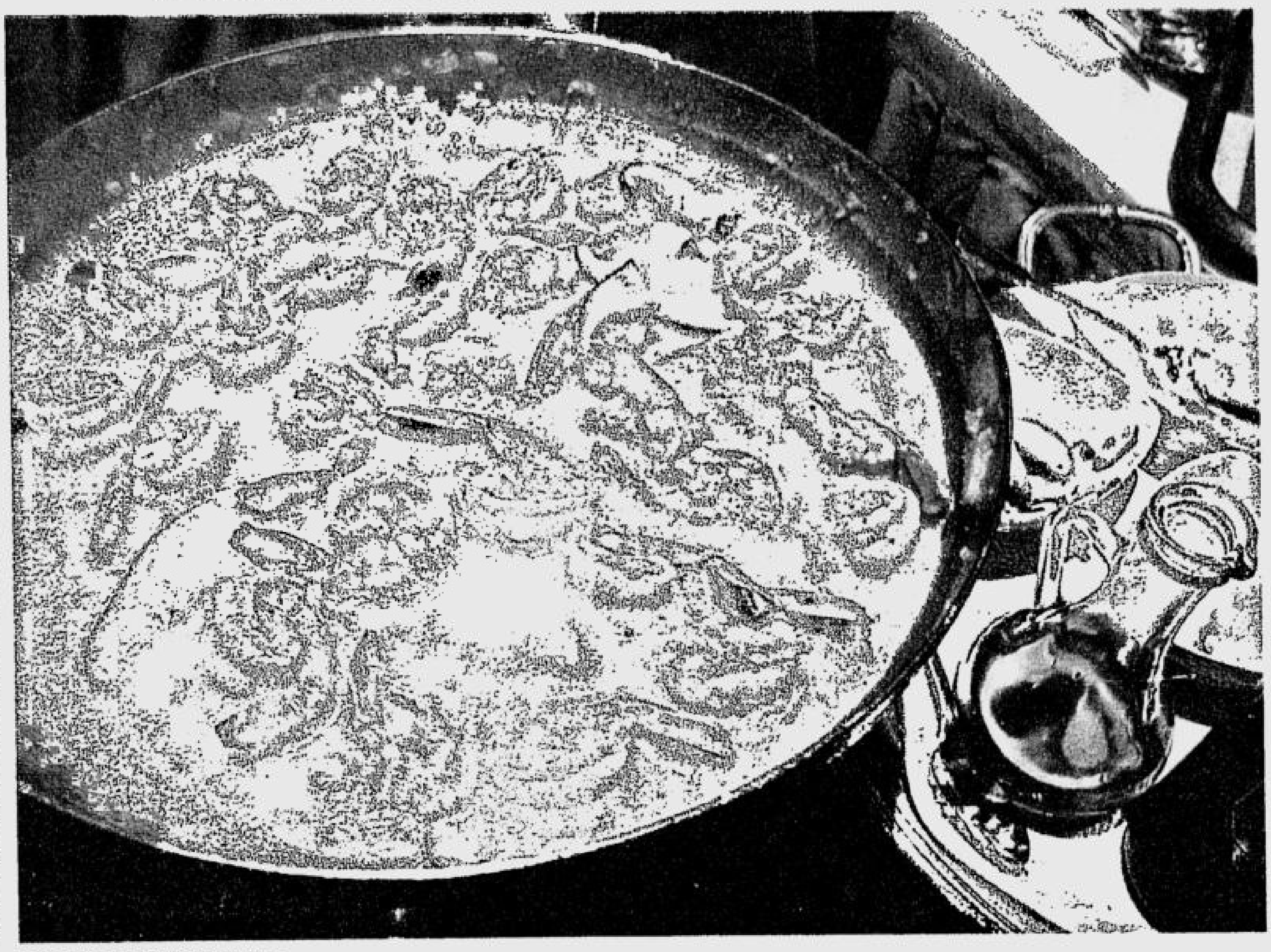


STEAK Tartare with capers

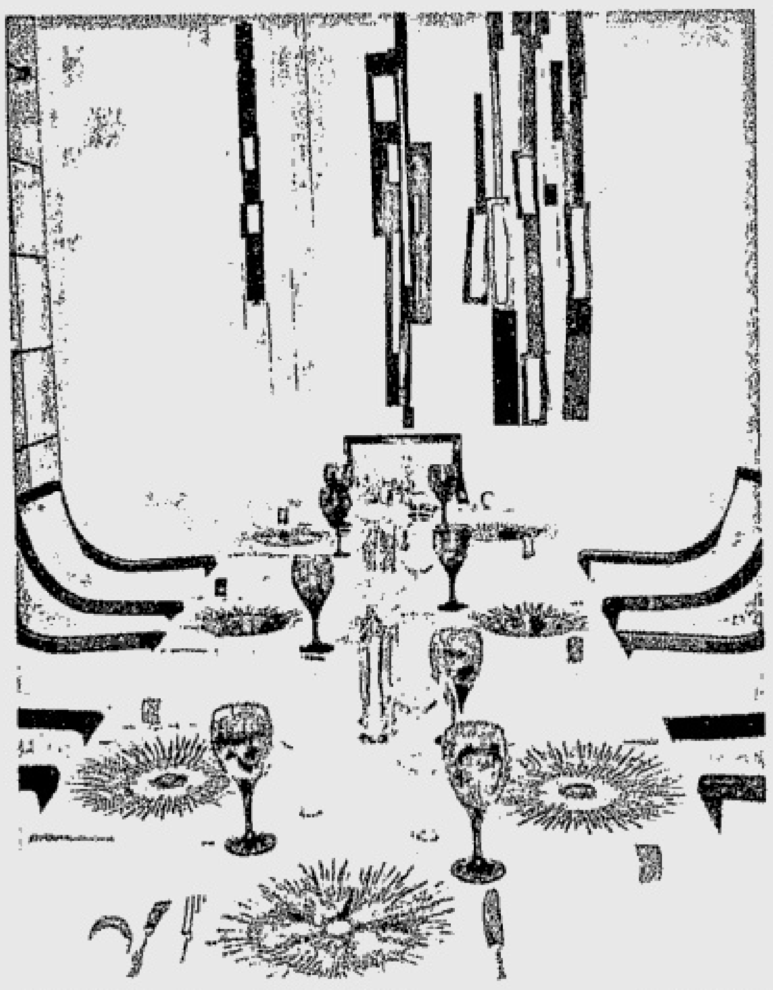


SEAFOOD Dome or *plateau de fruits de mer*



BOURBON-FLAMED Prawns

Return of elegant tableside serving



A SECTION of the refurbished Tivoli

MICHAELA FENIX

From page C1

very thorough then, he recalled.

Ruth Reichl, editor of Gourmet magazine and former New York Times restaurant reviewer, wrote in her autobiography, "Tender at the Bone," about her own tableside skills experience at the L'Escagot. By the restaurant's name, one can surmise it is French. Reichl was taught by a waiter named Henry how to sauté steak Diane, tenderloin cut butterfly-style, and flambé crêpes Suzette.

But it was a French waitress who taught Reichl tableside fine art. "Marielle… taught me to bone fish, make omelets, and serve with a spoon and fork and one hand behind my back… She made me taste salad dressings over and over until I could pour out the precise ratio of olive oil to vinegar without looking at what I was doing."

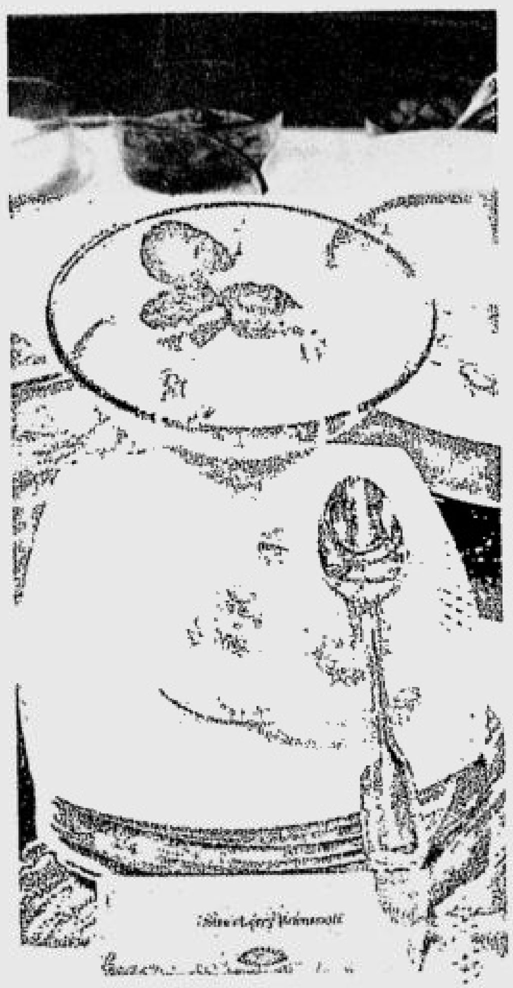
So the diner can now expect such service at the Tivoli. But present, too, are newer trends such as what we were served that day, the *amuse- bouche* of small items like a *bruschetta* of tomatoes and the cream of spinach soup served in espresso cups.

It seems, these days, you have to balance the old with the new.

The Tivoli of Mandarin Oriental Manila (Makati Avenue, Makati City, tel. 7508888) is open daily for dinner and from Monday to Friday for lunch.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com.

TABLESIDE preparations are a feast for the senses.



STRAWBERRY Romanoff

Hearty Italian dining in the mall

WHILE THERE ARE UNIVERSAL greetings like "hi" or "hello" and generic gestures like a wave or a salute, the Italians' "Buon giorno" (bwon djor-no) is one indispensable expression upon entering or leaving a public place or any Italian interaction.

Whether one is in a grocer's store, the piazza or a street café, greetings usually begin or end with an enthusiastic and passionate "Buon giorno!"

In the Philippines, this significant tradition is lived out in Italianni's newly-opened SM Megamall branch and in all Italianni's restaurants where the staff welcomes you with a hearty "Buon giorno!"

This greeting means "Welcome"—an invitation to experience Italianni's casual Italian-American atmosphere and old world charm. It also means "Savor the food!" as Italianni's offers *abbondanza* portions of Italian-American cuisine.

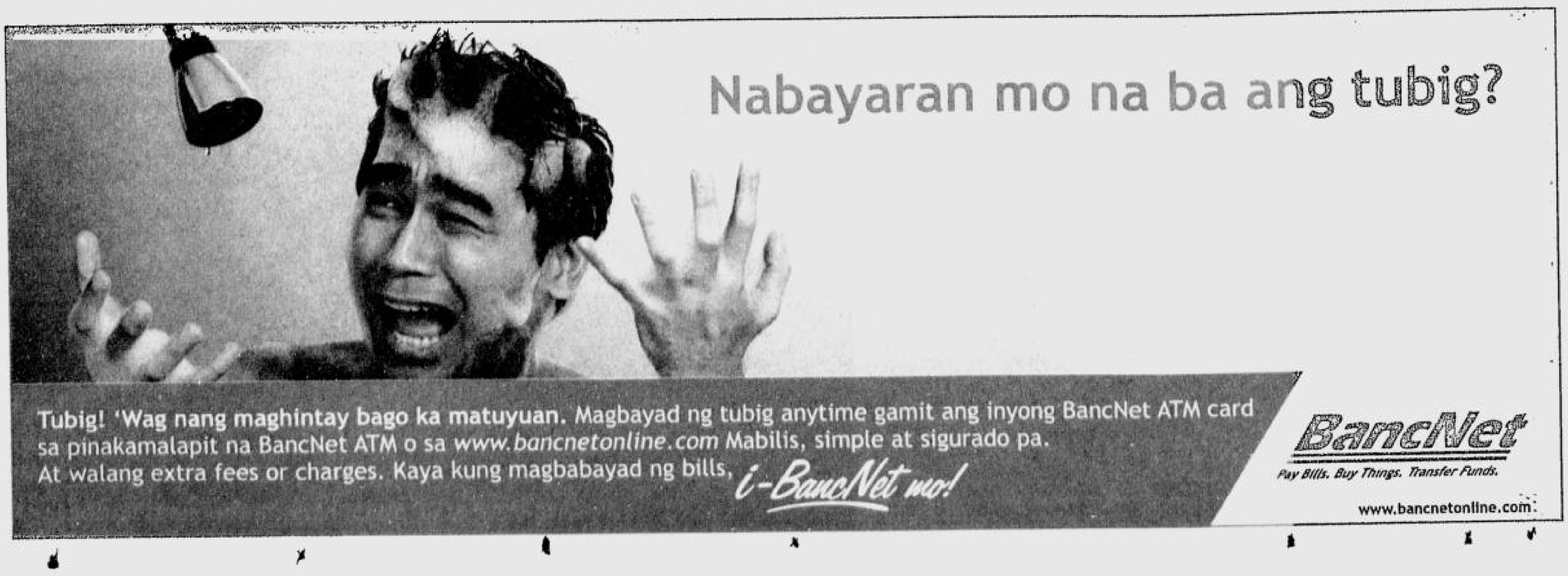
This simple salutation also connotes "We hope you enjoy your stay with us!" as the attentive staff makes every guest feel like part of the Italianni's family, where wine and food are a way of life.

Lastly, it also stands for "Come celebrate with us!" because at Italianni's, eating is a statement of a people's culture and the tradition of eating together, as depicted in its latest "Eats a Celebration" TV commercial.

Italianni's opens its newest branch at Building A, SM Megamall. The 400-seater restaurant boasts of new features like the Gelato Corner (with over 20 assorted Italian ice cream flavors, all homemade), Panetteria (bakery that offers freshly-baked breads, cakes and pastries) and Café plus those striking murals that depict quaint, Italian countryside sceneries. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily from 7 a.m. to 12 m.n.

Italianni's has other branches in Greenbelt 2; Glorietta 4; Alabang Town Center; SM City Bicutan; Greenhills; Eastwood, Libis; Gateway Mall, Araneta Center; and Tomas Morato, QC.

AT ITALIANNI'S restaurants, the staff welcomes you with a hearty "Buon giorno!"



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Consumer help desk at the mall

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

Coordinators will handle complaints and help get needed information

OVER AT SM CENTERPOINT on Magsaysay Avenue, a consumer-help counter has been around for some time now. On one side of the counter is the pay center for utility bills, and on the other side, the SM complaints desk that takes care of customers' concerns.

For those of us who live close to Centerpoint, the consumers' help desk has already been a major convenience. And now we are told that, in addition to this counter, there will soon be a new consumer welfare center that will provide a different kind of service.

Among other functions, it will link customers to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Social Security System (SSS) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The first linkage center is already open at SM Megamall. The Consumer Welfare Center is a joint project of DTI and SM Supermalls.

Consumer welfare coordinators who man the desk do not only handle consumer complaints and queries but also assist customers in getting information from government agencies. Taxpayers can ask about their BIR payments, verify their tax information number (TIN), or inquire about tax filing and payment schemes. SSS members can inquire about payments, benefits, loans, etc.

Consumers with complaints against business establishments can get help through the I-Reklamo, DTI's online complaint system.

E-mail mfd@sm-shoemart.com for more information on the consumer welfare center.

Humiliated

Lina David e-mailed that her daughter felt humiliated that salespeople in a popular shop at Gateway seemed to be laughing at her. She said instead of helping her daughter find the right size of clothes, the salespersons whispered to each other and giggled as they looked at the girl.

David wrote, "A customer is a customer: rich, poor, thin, heavy, fat, pretty, male, female... We expect to be treated well."

(This columnist talked to the store manager who said she was new on the job. She claimed salespersons were told to be nice to customers and not to discriminate. Nonetheless, she assured us the matter would be taken up at the next staff meeting.)

Nightmare

Joan Cruz, through an e-mail, offers this advice to the management of shopping malls and their security guards. She said the guards should not be quick to accuse someone of stealing unless they could prove it. Even if their charges are proven false, 'the harm had already been done. "[In my case], the humiliation I experienced will always haunt me," she said.

She said she was accused of tampering with price tags in a department store. "I had already paid for the item when a guard approached me and asked to see the object in question. The guard concluded I had removed the [correct] price tag and replaced it with a [lower] tag from another product. Despite my protest, I was brought to the office and interrogated further. The way they questioned me was so humiliating, and they [tried] to persuade me to admit the [charge]."

Misleading tags

Another reader, Felix Liwag, wrote that the shelf price tags of some items at a warehouse store in Rockwell mall were not honored by the cashiers. He said this was a violation of the price tag law.

We asked store manager Robert Pelayo, who explained: "We have removed price stickers on the items, as requested by customers who complained that they spoiled the products and blocked important prints on the labels. We wrote products' specific prices on their respective shelves. However, items are often [moved from one shelf] to another due to customer handling."

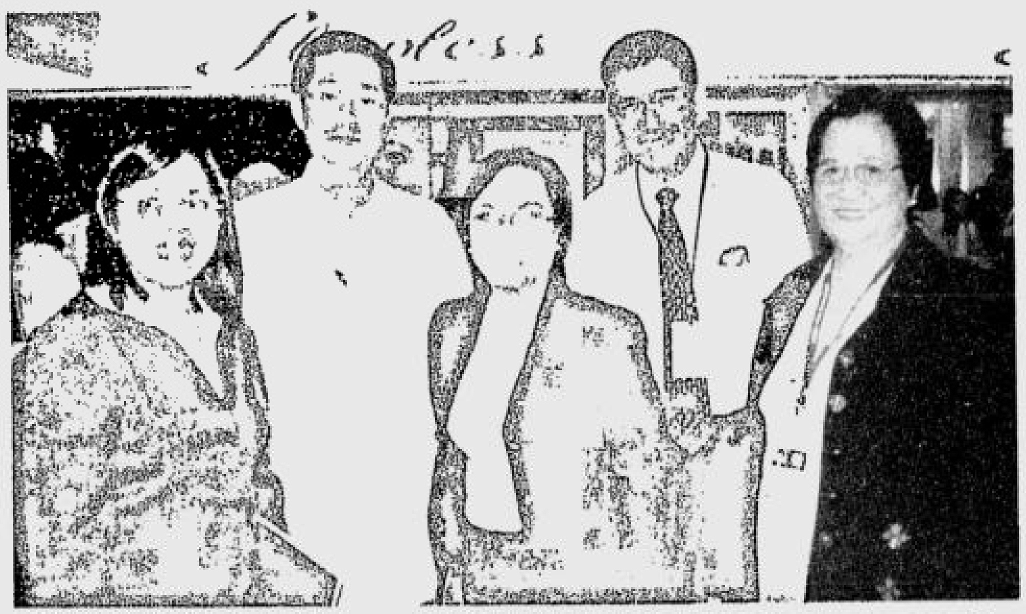
How does the cashier determine the price of the product without a price sticker? "The scanner at the payment counter reads the data on the bar code of the product," Pelayo said.

Liwag commented, "There should be a drive in this country for honest business practices. We, citizens, should not just blindly accept things. We should start to analyze practices that need to be improved, and make [sure] these improvements are carried out, despite resistance."

Canine security

Sometime ago, C. Lizardo wrote about a security dog in a mall that made a jump for her bottled water. Here's a follow-up to that item: "I was shocked to find that the dog was still in the mall. I filed a formal complaint with the management of the mall but did not get any reply at all. Again, I hope the mall administration will act on this danger. That dog must not be assigned to a commercial area where people commonly buy and carry mineral water bottles."

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor at the Consumer Welfare Center launch at SM Megamall. She was welcomed by SM's Herbert and Harley Sy.



CONSUMER Welfare Undersecretary Zenaida Maglayag, SM VP for controllership Ricky Lim, BIR Deputy Commissioner Lily Guillermo, DTI Director Victorio Mario Dimagiba and Consumer Welfare Division Chief I Carmen Avendaño

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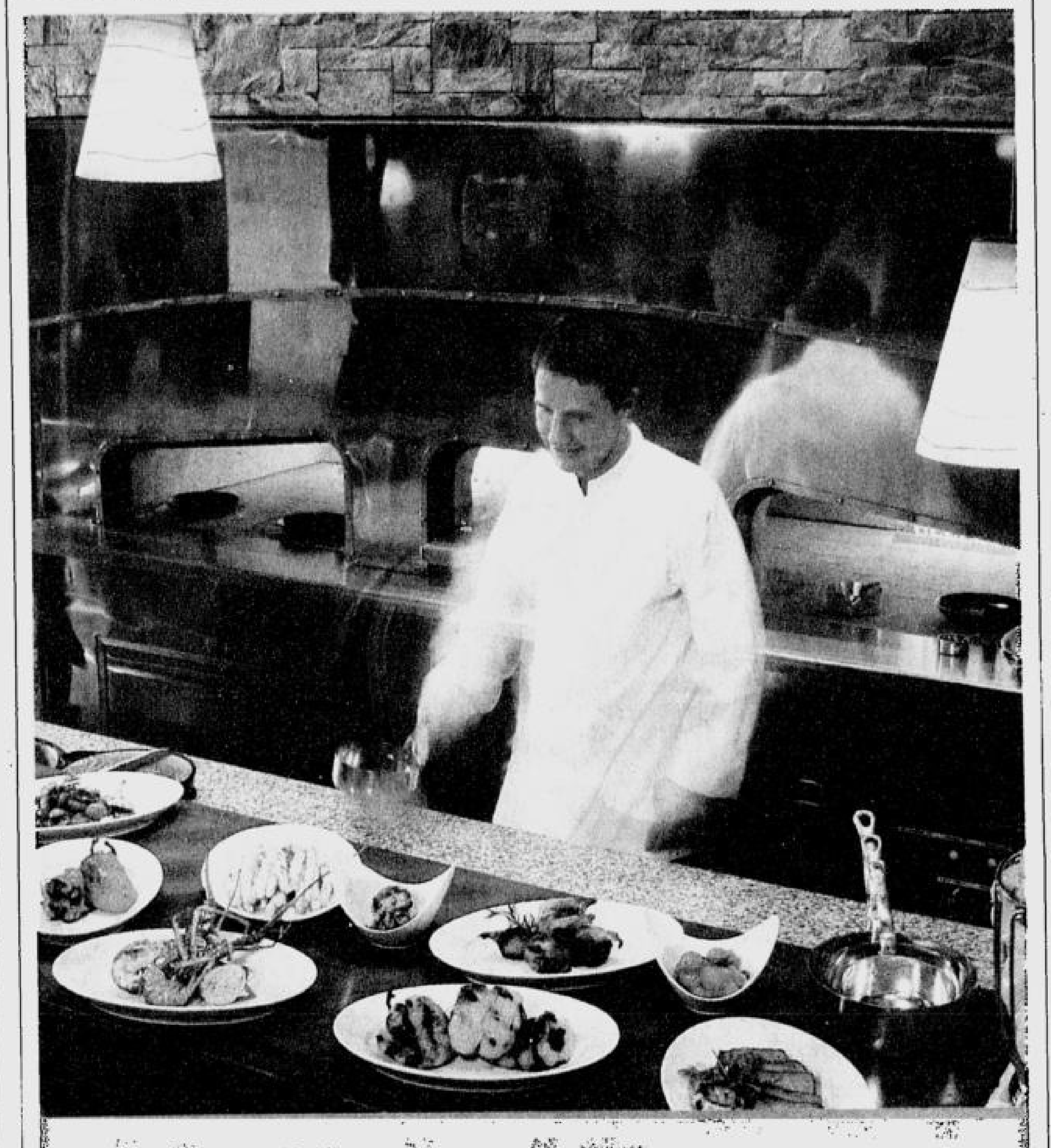

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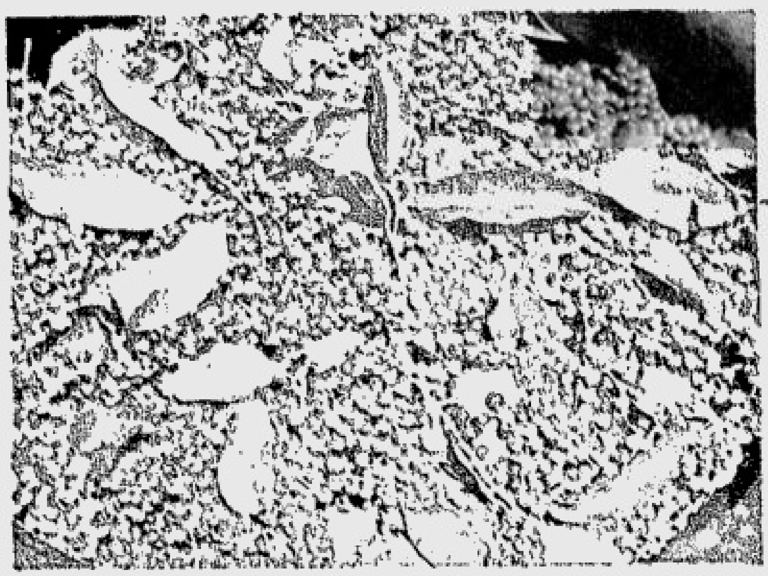

BIGNAY Berries, the source for Malagos Wine

The Mindanao Culinary Festival springs all kinds of sensory surprises on this judge

Sugar and spice and perfectly nice Davao

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM the Mindanao Culinary Festival in Davao, a trip sugared and spiced, perfectly nice!

For starters, I was with people I truly love and respect: Norbert Gandler, Gene Gonzalez, Toby Libarnes, Dennis Hipolito, Penk Ching, along with other friends, Dorothy Fererria and Ed Tawagon. All of us were given the difficult task of judging the culinary competitions.

Happily, as it's been in all competitions across the country, the participants seemed to be getting better, and our task, more difficult. It was good bonding time for us and it was great to know that everyone was doing well in their respective culinary ventures.

I left Manila at 4:20 a.m. via Cebu Pacific. The flight was pleasant, and having Gene on board made it extremely entertaining! We got to Davao in time for the 6:30 a.m. first judging.

I was met by Sally San José and we headed straight to NCC, the MCF's venue. By the entrance was a beautiful showcase, designed and executed by Jing Puentespina. Her masterpiece, which she described as "A Fusion of Mindanao and Asean Flavors," made use of indigenous fabric, fruits and vegetables. Her mannequins donned Asian costumes, "capped off" with toques and ladles for that final culinary touch. The showcase was, by itself, a treat for the senses!

Endless products

Judging began, and in between, I found myself drifting into the booth of Malagos Garden Resort, which turned out to be a sister company of Waling Orchids. I was greeted by Olive, again a Puentespina (they just seem to be everywhere!), and her goodies. There was Feta Cheese made from pure Anglo Nubian Goats' milk, grown and raised in Malagos, fed with organically grown roughage and desiccated coconuts. The consistency of this feta is fabulous!

Then I sampled Malagos Fruit Wine, which was delightfully sweet and made from Bignay Berries, (a.k.a. currant tree berries). There were also fresh oysters and abalone mushrooms as large as portobellos. They even had Funghi Marinati, bottled mushrooms cooked in olive oil and herbs which could be served as an antipasto, or tossed into your salad or pasta, all home-grown in their mushroom facility. From their cocoa beans comes Malagos Tableya, especially fermented for that distinct and unique flavor. From the very same *tableya* they have concocted an excellent Tableya Cake, one so deliciously dense, rich and moist. The list of what they make seems endless: dried flowers, soap, coconut oil, *sukang tuba*...

A humble cottage industry was what I expected, based on Olive's description of Malagos, but it turned out she was being too humble. I don't even own the place and I'm so proud of it! Due to time constraints, I painfully declined their invitation to Malagos for a nature tour and an ostrich ride.

The resort happens to be also an ostrich farm that slaughters only young birds and sells only prime cut meat, something I have yet to sample. If their other products are a gauge, then I reckon their ostrich meat must be excellent!

Best-of buffet

By the time we were done with our duties, we had just enough time to head back to the beautiful and comfortable Marco Polo to freshen up for dinner at Chippens.

Chippens happens to be owned by Sally. It is best described as the mini Circles of Davao. As we walked in, a delectable buffet, which showcased the very best of Mindanao, greeted us. Judging by the effort that this woman puts into her food, it's no surprise that she's been hailed Caterer of the Year three times over, and that she still holds the crown to date.

What I later discovered made me ecstatic. Chippens is an empire built on a capital of P5,000! In my opinion, all is well-deserved. People as kind, genuine

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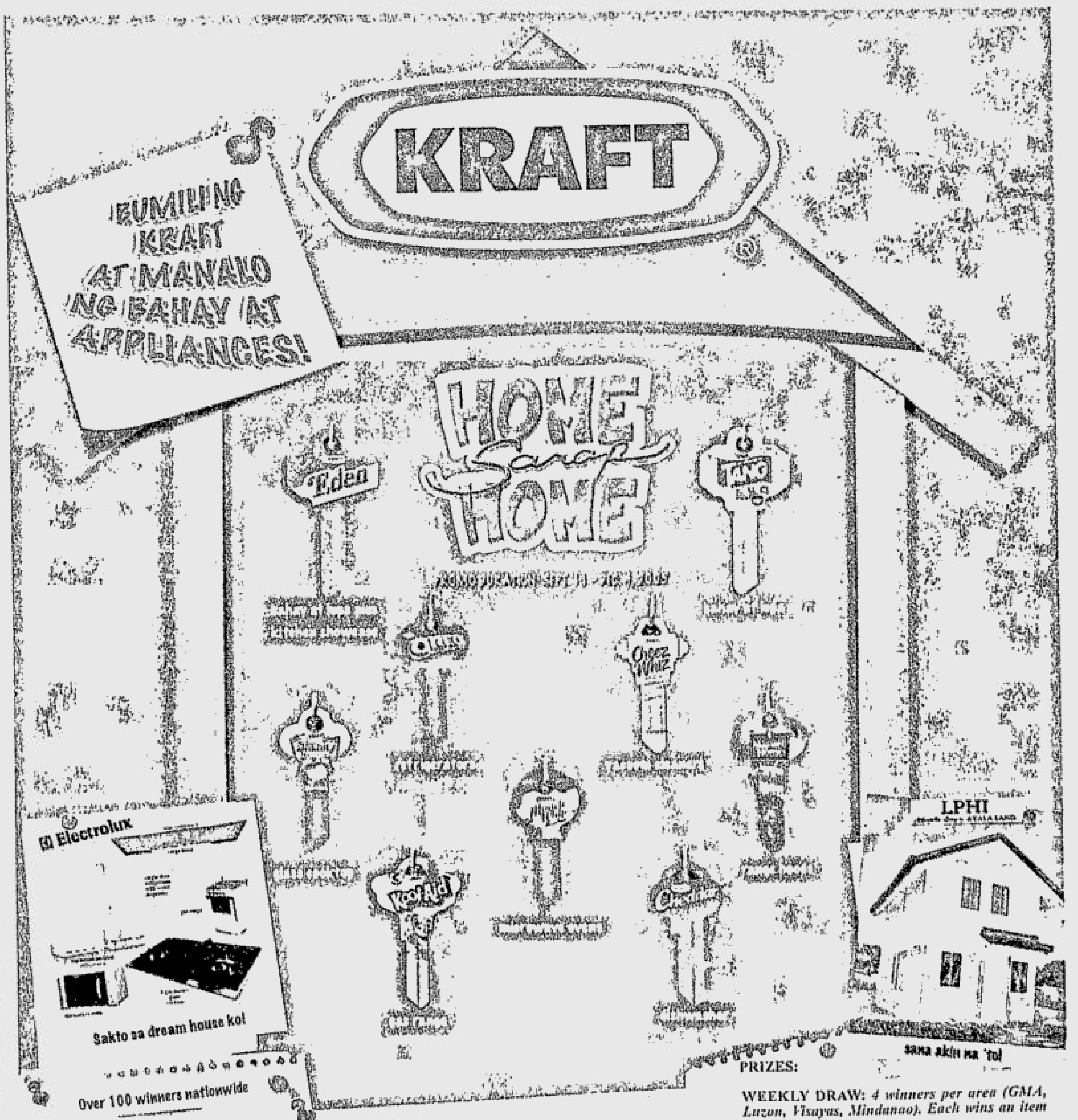

DRAW DATES:

1st Weekly Draw:	Oct. 8, 2005
2nd Weekly Draw:	Oct. 15, 2005
3rd Weekly Draw:	Oct. 22, 2005
1st Preliminary Draw:	Oct. 29, 2005
4th Weekly Draw:	Nov. 5, 2005
5th Weekly Draw:	Nov. 12, 2005
6th Weekly Draw:	Nov. 19, 2005
2nd Preliminary Draw:	Nov. 26, 2005
Grand Draw:	Dec. 4, 2005

DRAW DETAILS:

- All draws will be conducted at Promotech Resource office/ warehouse (Rm. 208 Don Raul Bldg. 77 Kamuning Rd., QC). Winners will be drawn by Kraft Foods Philippines, Inc. Marketing and/or Sales Representative(s) and witnessed by the BFAD representative.
- A participant can only win once per draw but he/she shall not be excluded from winning in other draws. If a name is drawn more than once per draw, he/she gets the prize of the higher value and a replacement draw is done for the prize(s) of lower value.
- Non-winning entries will still be included in the succeeding draws

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2nd PRELIMINARY DRAW: *1 winner per area (GMA, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao). Each wins an* Electrolux Showcase: a 9 cu. ft. single door refrigerator with water dispenser, gas range, range hood and microwave oven. A 5th winner to win a Sta. Catalina House & Lot (by Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc.)

GRAND DRAW: *1 winner of a Sta. Catalina House & Lot* (located at Sta. Catalina Village, Dasmariñas Cavite by Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc.) PLUS Electrolux Showcase: a dishwasher, a 10 cu. ft. 2 door no-frost refrigerator, a 3-gas burner glass cooktop and a range hood.

IMPORTANT: Winners will be notified via registered mail. This will inform them as to where, when and how to claim or receive their prizes.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0795 Series of 2005

Miracle Whip Chunky Chunks OREO Eden TANG Cheez Whiz Kool-Aid Maxwell House Cheddar

Fresh and gouda from Cagayan de Oro

By Tita V. Giron

FRESH COW'S MILK straight from farms of members of the Northern Mindanao Federation of Dairy Cooperatives (NMFDC) was the last thing we expected during a recent visit to Cagayan de Oro City.

And we mean fresh, collected by farmers early in the morning and picked up by NMFDC trucks for pasteurization in its plant then delivered to households in the city and neighboring areas.

The processing center of the federation in one of the *barangays* of Cagayan de Oro surprisingly produces a diverse product line that includes bottled fresh milk, including flavored varieties; plain yoghurt both in liquid and semi-solid form; dairy bars, *kesong puti*.

The federation is also the only local producer of the Dutch gouda cheese. Cresencio O. Barros Jr., federation chair, said they learned to make gouda cheese from a Dutch consultant who helped set up the processing plant.

Unfortunately, production at the moment is only sufficient to meet the local demand. The federation does increase its output towards the Christmas season.

It has already received a rather sizeable order from a senator and his wife, a congresswoman, who has heard of the gouda and wanted to give it away as gift this Christmas.

Ten household cooperative members in Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental supply the milk to the federation that processes the milk into different dairy products. There are two groups of coops with several farmer members in Cagayan de Oro that can produce 600 liters a day, three coops in Bukidnon collect 300 liters while another two coops in Misamis Oriental add 240 liters a day.

Each cooperative has a collection center where the milk, in sterilized containers, is collected by federation trucks every 4 a.m.

Barros said milk sent by each farmer cooperator was tested for harmful organisms and returned if it exceeded allowable limits. This ensured that members consistently observed sanitation and hygienic standards.

The federation was organized in 1991, but actual production and marketing operations started three years later. Right now, the dairy farmers get support in cash and kind—loans and additional milking cows—from the National Dairy Authority.

But several coop members, who started with one milking cow each from a government dispersal program, have also managed to add to their herds from their earnings from milk production.

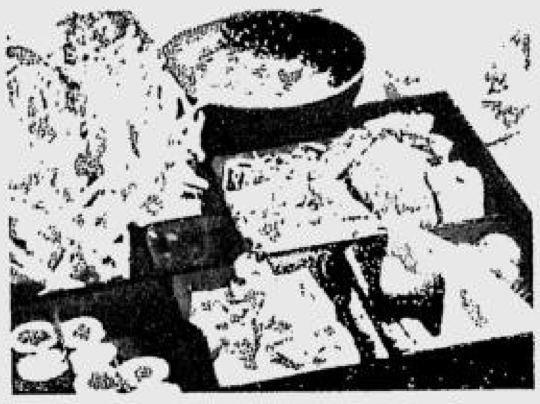
Available at the federation's processing center are the following dairy products: gouda cheese, butter, *kesong puti*, herb cheese, fresh milk, choco-milk, melon-flavored milk, mango-flavored milk and yoghurt.

MILK BAR
BUTTER
GOUDA CHEESE

FRESH milk, plain and in fruit flavors, butter, yogurt, candy bars and the only locally-made gouda cheese are produced by the Cagayan de Oro dairy coop.

LINDA B. BOLIDO

MONGOLIAN Stop's Mongolian Bowl is a mix of fresh vegetables, meat, seafood and special sauces.



SUSHI-YA'S Tuna Teppanyaki Bento Box for two

Something new and different

POPEYE'S offers Cajun Fries, "New Orleans-style" Fried Chicken, Buttermilk Biscuits, Cajun Rice, Mashed Potato, Red Beans and Rice, Macaroni Salad, Onion Rings, Popcorn Shrimp, Chicken Sandwich and Squid Rings.

TASTE BUDS HAS BEcome a popular destination not only for regular shoppers and mallers but also for discriminating diners who are on the lookout for something new and different.

The choices are unlimited—take your pick from popular fast food outlets to restaurants that carry their own unique food selections.

There's Popeye's Chicken, famous for the Cajun way of cooking. Shakey's, home of the original thin-crust pizza, is for diners who are on the go.

More choices are also offered at Mongolian Quick Stop to the delight of those with huge appetite for eat-all-you-can meals at affordable prices.

Newcomer is Duke of York Pizzeria, which serves authentic American-Italian cuisine and boasts of their mouthwatering pizza and pasta.

Other crowd drawers are the Taste Buds "originals": Bacolod Chicken Inasal, Sushi-Ya, Dencio's, Tang City, Mario's Kitchen and San Francisco Coffee.

Taste Buds has also become a part of the Manila night life with live performances from acoustic artists, string quartets and alternative bands on weekends.

Taste Buds is at 2/L Pedro Gil Wing of Robinsons Place Manila.

Chef indulges your cravings on the spot

DINING OUT

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza presents "As You Like It: Live" today until Oct. 14 at its Café Plaza Too. Describe your craving to *sous* chef Marco Legasto and he'll create it for you—live. Ingredients of appetizers and main dishes include *santol*, cashew, salted egg, black squid ink, *taba ng talangka*, *balut*, *bagoong*, *kesong puti*, mango and *gabi*. Call 5515555.

UNA Mas Greenhills offers daily breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. House specials include Salmon Belly, Homemade Ham, US Choice Beef Tapa, Daing na Bangus, Chicken Longganiza and Chicken Nuggets, served with rice and egg or a side of vegetables. Call 7230012/ 7235197.

PORTICO 1771 features Spring Tofu. The subtle flavor of soft Japanese tofu is enveloped in an omelet. Spring onions are cooked into crisp tempura and surrounded with Japanese sauce. Perfect as an appetizer and vegetarian dish. Portico 1771 is located at 1771 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila. Call 5232063.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel presents Mooncake Festival until Sept. 18 at Patisserie and Pavilion Court. The mooncakes come in two varieties: lotus and red bean. Call 5261212.

MAKATI Shangri-La Hotel's Circles Event Café features "Arabian Food Festival" today until Sept. 25. Diners who will dine in Circles will be eligible to win two Business Class tickets to Muscat, Oman onboard Gulf Air and accommodations in a Shangri-La property in Muscat.

EDSA Shangri-La's Paparazzi presents Sunday Brunch Buffet in September. Available from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the buffet features homemade pasta with traditional Italian sauces, fresh vegetable and seafood salads, desserts and breakfast favorites. Free-flowing sparkling wine completes the Sunday celebration. Call 6338888.

HERITAGE Hotel Manila presents "The Heritage Grand Buffet" until Sept. 30. Restaurant Riviera features specialty dishes from the West and East and healthy options for lunch and dinner. Call 8548888.

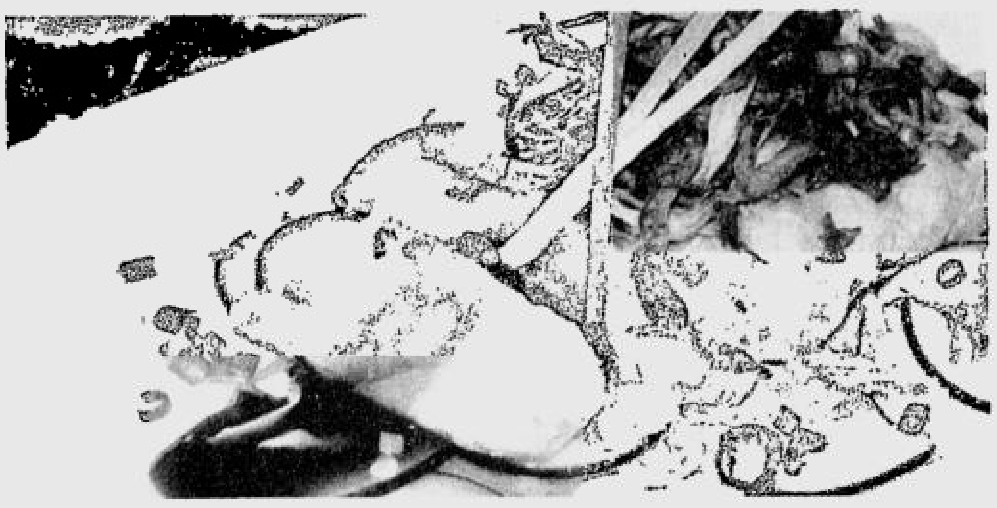
MANILA Diamond Hotel introduces Cuban Margarita as cocktail of the month. A mixture of cointreau, vodka, rum and lime juice, it's the new style of Margarita. Available at the hotel's food and beverage outlets. Call 5283000.

CAFÉ Adriatico offers Watermelon and Banana Smoothie until Sept. 30. It comes at P125+ for non-alcoholic and P145+ with vodka. End a meal with Baileys Re-Torte, a slice of coffee and dark chocolate with Baileys Liqueur. Available with free brewed coffe, plain or with a shot of Baileys. Call 5220403.

LEGENDA Hotel, Subic Freeport's only five-star hotel, marked recently the 60th Indonesian National Day with the launch of its three-part Indonesia Festival, "Ultimate in Diversity." As part of the event, Indonesian cuisine was served at the hotel's Le Café restaurant. The second phase of the Indonesia Festival will be in September and October.

CHILI'S Greenhills is now offering Roast Rib-Eye every Sunday. The rib-eye is served with side salad and mashed potatoes. It comes in three sizes—small (200 g), medium (300 g) and large (400 g). Chili's is located at Missouri cor. Nevada Sts., Northeast Greenhills. Call 7272959/7273037.

TAAL Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City will hold the "Flavors of Spain" in October; Pearl Farm Beach Resort will have the festival in November and Club Punta Fuego, in December. Chef's recommended a la carte specials, tapas and Sangria mixes will be available daily. Call 7501999.



TUNA Confit

SMOKED Cheese-crusted Salmon

Fish the Asian-Med way

CHEF DENNIS EDILLON has fused Mediterranean and Asian flavors for the new lineup of dishes at Hotel Pontefino, the only deluxe hotel in Batangas City.

In the new Asian Mediterranean or Asian Med cuisine conceptualized and executed by Edillon, the different dishes use the freshest produce and ingredients from the Batangas countryside.

Here are two of Edillon's Asian Med recipes:

Smoked Cheese-crusted Salmon

(Oven-cooked salmon fillets, smoked cheese, veal jus)

Rosemary-curing mix:

125 g sugar, brown
125 g sugar, white
110 g rock salt
125 g ginger, chopped fine
120 g garlic, chopped fine
80 g fresh lemongrass, chopped, white parts only

Mix all ingredients well. Start with the sugar and salt before adding the rest of the ingredients.

Cured salmon:

500 g salmon fillets
Curing mix

In a deep glass bowl, put some of the curing mix at the bottom before carefully arranging salmon fillets on top leaving space between pieces. Cover with the rest of the curing mix taking care no part of the salmon is exposed. Cover with a plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator for four hours. Wash salmon fillets thoroughly afterwards.

Grilled Vegetable Ratatouille:

25 g eggplant
25 g zucchini
15 g green bell pepper
15 g red bell pepper
5 ml olive oil
5 g garlic, chopped
10 g pesto

Grill vegetables. In sauté pan, cook garlic in olive oil. Add all grilled vegetables and toss well. Season with pesto and salt and pepper.

To assemble dish:

100 g cured salmon
Grilled Ratatouille
3 pcs asparagus spears, grilled
20 g smoked cheese, grated
3 tsp veal jus

Pan-fry salmon fillet. Spoon grilled vegetable ratatouille on a plate. Put salmon on top of vegetables. Arrange asparagus and smoked cheese on top of salmon. Drizzle veal jus on salmon and around plate.

Tuna Confit

(Sliced rosemary-cured sashimi-grade tuna steak, adobo *flakes, Japanese coleslaw, bouquet of lettuce)*

Rosemary-curing mix:

125 g sugar, brown
125 g sugar, white
110 g rock salt
125 g ginger, chopped fine
120 g garlic, chopped fine
80 g rosemary, fresh

Mix all ingredients well, starting with the sugar and salt before adding the rest of the ingredients.

Cured Tuna:

500 g sashimi-grade tuna
Rosemary-curing mix

In a deep glass bowl, put some of the curing mix at the bottom before carefully arranging tuna fillets on top, leaving space between fillets. Cover with the rest of the curing mix, taking care no part of the tuna is exposed. Cover with a plastic wrap and store in the fridge for four hours. Wash tuna fillets thoroughly afterwards.

In a food pan, cover tuna with confit fat and leave in a 200°F oven for 15 minutes.

Confit Fat:

1 ½ pcs yellow lemon
30 g rosemary, fresh
10 g sage, fresh
25 g garlic, sliced
corn oil

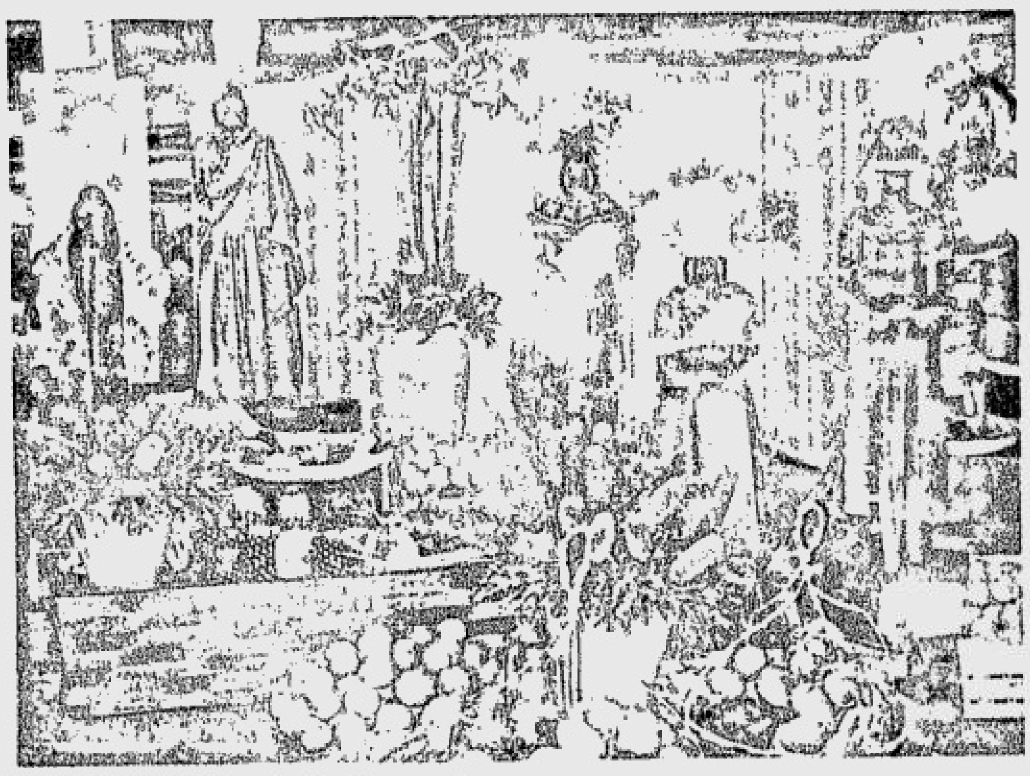
Combine all ingredients in a food pan. Place in a 200° oven for 20 minutes. Cool down until needed.

To assemble dish:

100 g cured tuna, sliced thin
50 g *adobo* flakes
1 tbsp *adobo* sauce
20 g carrots, shredded
20 g cucumber, shredded
10 g cabbage, shredded
15 g Japanese mayonnaise

Combine vegetables and place on a plate. Top with Japanese Mayo. Place sliced tuna on top.

Arrange *adobo* flakes on top of tuna and drizzle with *adobo* sauce. Garnish with chopped spring onions.



THE BEST of Mindanao by Jing Puentespina

Sugar and spice and perfectly nice Davao

From page D1

and hardworking as Sally come few and far between!

Overwhelmed by the spread, I concentrated on three things: Davao Lechon, tuna sashimi and *kinilaw*.

The *lechon* was salted to perfection inside and out. It was tender, with very little fat. Part of the cooking process, I'm told, is fat extraction. The *lechon* was a winner, and I had four plates full! The tuna sashimi was export grade, class A, direct from Gen San. So sweet and its texture, sublime, it melted in my mouth! As for the delicious *kinilaw*, which Sally made, here's her recipe:

Kinilaw

Wash 1 kg cubed tuna belly in ½ c vinegar, drain and chill.

Sauce: In a bowl, combine ½ c each vinegar and *kalamansi* juice, 2 tbsp minced ginger, 1 chopped onion, 2 pcs finger chili, sliced, 3 tsp salt, 2 tbsp wasabi powder.

Thinly slice 2 pcs each of raddish and cucumber.

Chill all three components separately, incorporate just before serving.

To be continued...

Keep these numbers because they deliver to Manila: Davao Lechon, Porquitos (0917-7047303); Jing Puentespina, florist, fresh flowers, plants (0917-7009005); Olive Puentespina, cake, wine, cheese (0917-7001205); Citra Mina Tuna: Manila (8427542), Davao (082-2974500)

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

Breakfast cooking classes

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL of Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Sept. 16—Around the World Breakfast 1 (all new!)—American Breakfast of Steak and Cheese Omelet, Fluffy Pancakes and Delicious Blueberry Muffins; Mexican Breakfast of Huevos Ranchero, Breakfast Burrito and Mexican Style Churros; Easy French Breakfast of Stuffed Mini Croissants and Quiche

Sept. 17—Oven-Baked Lechon de Leche like never before (all new!)—Rock Salt and Lemon Grass Marinated with Sauces: Classic Liver Sauce, Wasabi, Creamed Honey Mustard, Creamy Garlic, Coffee, Peanut, Cilantro, Apricot, Sweet Tomato, Morel Sauce. Relishes, Salsas, Tuyo Rice, Salad and Dessert

Sept. 19—Prawns and Scallops (all new!)—Crispy Prawn Noodle, Prawn Toasts with Sweet and Sour Sauce, Prawn Rice, Prawn Spring Rolls with Fruit Dipping Sauce, Rock Salt Prawns, Scallop Risotto, Scallop with Lychee, Scallop with Berries

Sept. 21—Mom's Merienda Recipes (all new!)—Lumpiang Gulay, 7-Up Pork Barbecue, Sandwich Cake, Angel Hair Pancit Style with Mini Turon, Leche Flan, Quesong Mamon

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.

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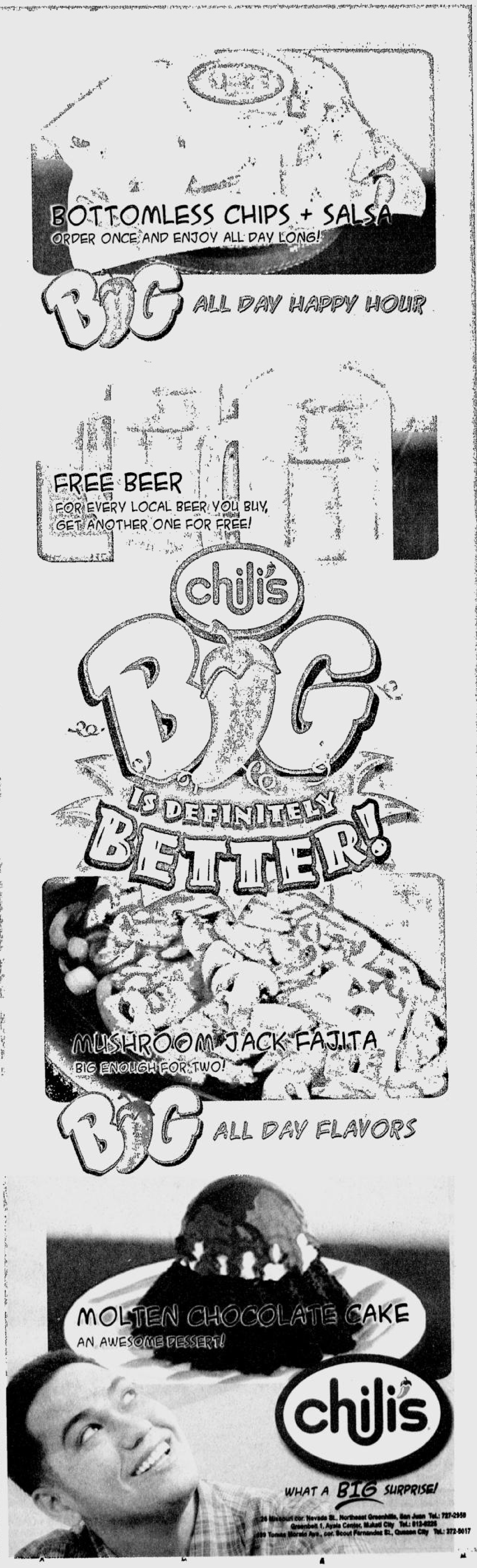
ADVT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PDI FAMILY
RECIPE CONTEST

Inspired by two mothers

By Virginia "Jenny" G. Miranda

THIS RECIPE WAS CREATED by my late mother when I was young. The ingredients and method of cooking had remained the same through the years.

When I got married, my mother-in-law also cooked this nutritious and delicious Ginatang Inihaw na Tilapia sa Bayabas at Gata using the same method of cooking and ingredients as my mother.

Now I was encouraged to cook this dish for my family and relatives. I found out that my version was more delicious.

My mother-in-law read about this "You Might Be Cooking A Winner" in the INQUIRER dated Sept. 8. She convinced me to submit this unique recipe, which I hope you will appreciate.

Grilled Tilapia in Guava with Coconut Milk

5 pcs of *tilapia* (medium-sized)
20 pcs of ripe guavas
5 pcs of small onions
1 head of garlic
3 glasses of coconut milk (kakang gata)
3 glasses of coconut milk (second squeeze)
¼ c cooking oil
½ tbsp *patis* or salt
5 pcs of okra cut diagonally
3 pcs of eggplant, cut in the middle
10 pcs of string beans, cut into short pieces
1 bunch of *camote* tops
1 tbsp of sugar

Clean the fish, removing the gills and the intestines. Sprinkle with a little salt after cleaning.

Grill, then set aside.

Wash the guavas. After removing the seeds, mash the fruits in a small bowl.

Sauté garlic and onions. When they have turned slightly brown, add a little salt or *patis*.

Put the guava meat and cook until tender. Add *sitaw*, okra, eggplant, stirring occasionally.

Pour the second coconut gravy, and boil. Stir constantly in lower heat.

Cover and simmer for 30 minutes or until vegetables are almost done.

Add the grilled *tilapia* to the vegetables and pour the *kakang-gata*.

Leave for three minutes until boiling. Add a little sugar.

Serve hot in a bowl with rice, and *patis* to taste.

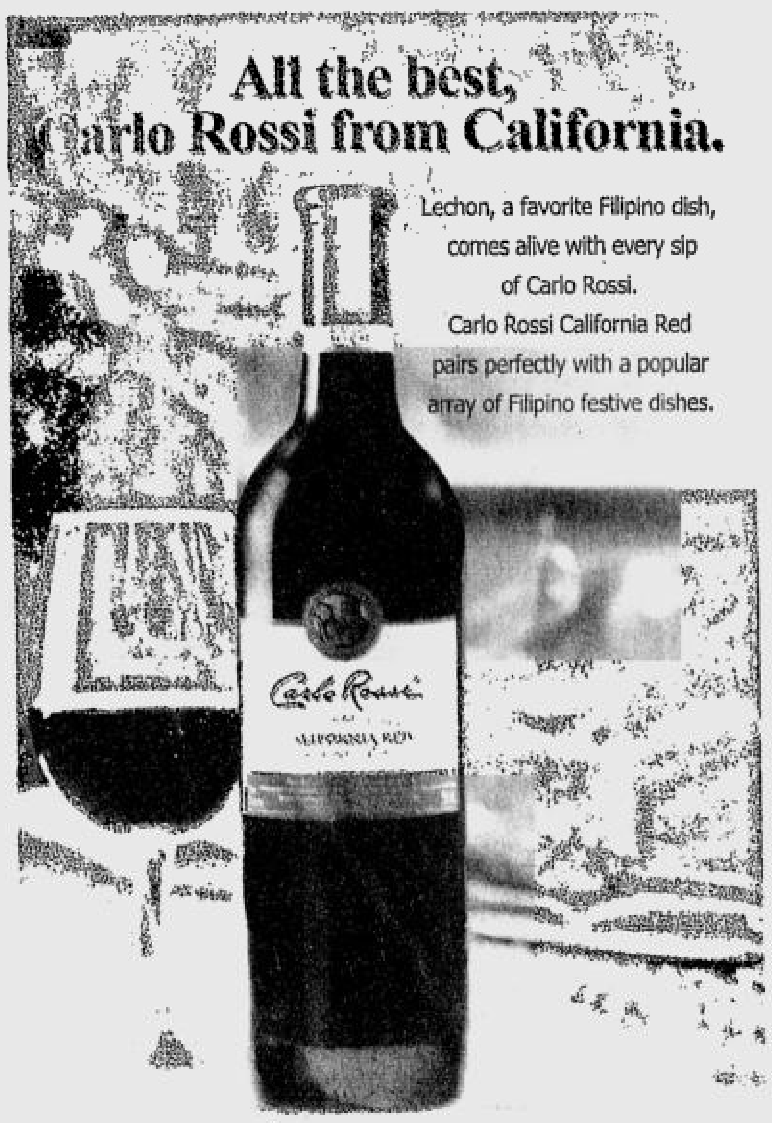
GRILLED Tilapia in Guava with Coconut Milk

You might be cooking a winner

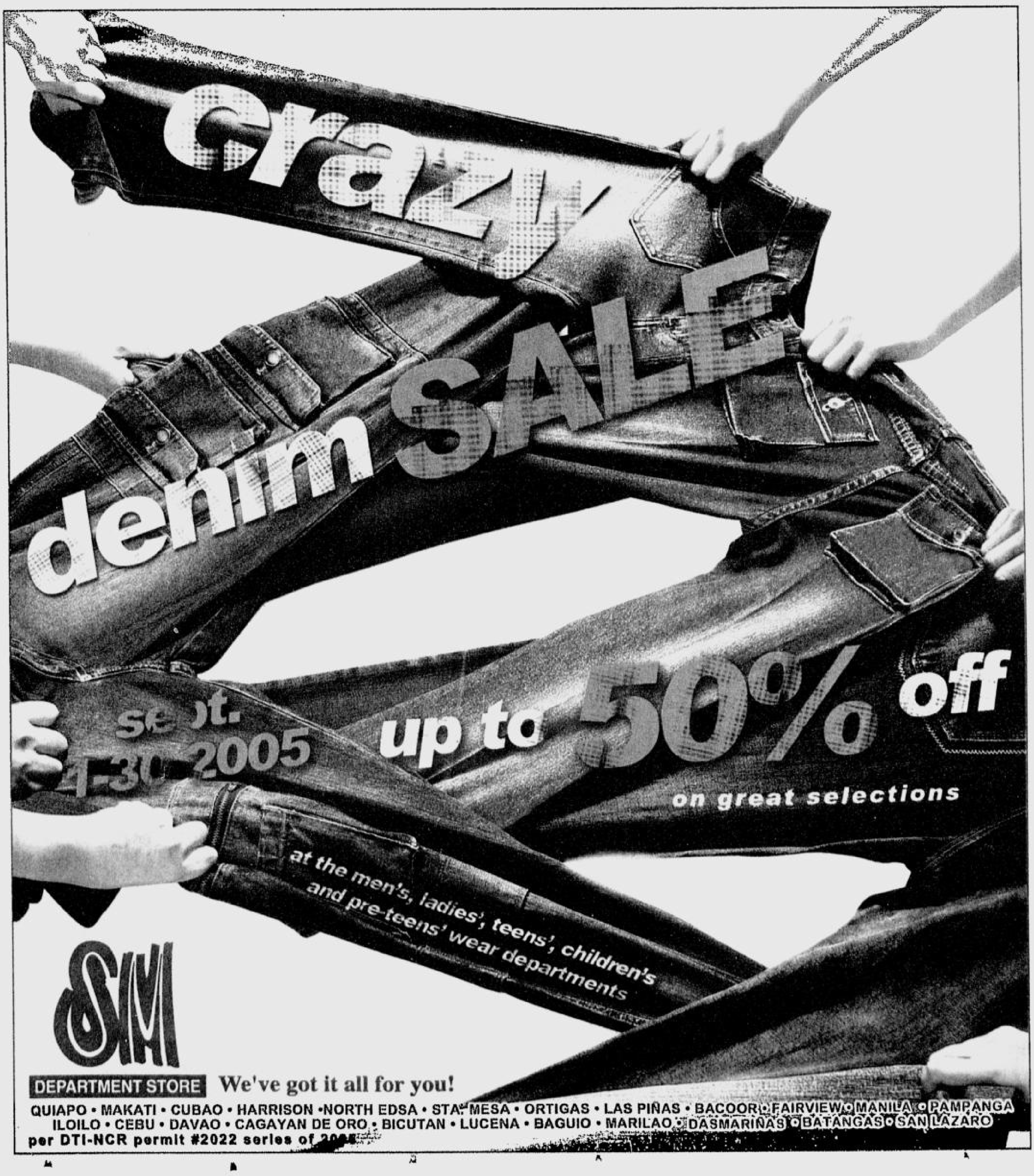
THE FAMILY recipes that you're turning into favorite dishes at reunions may be exactly what we want. We are looking for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients. Send us your recipes and, if chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph.** For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph


All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.
Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.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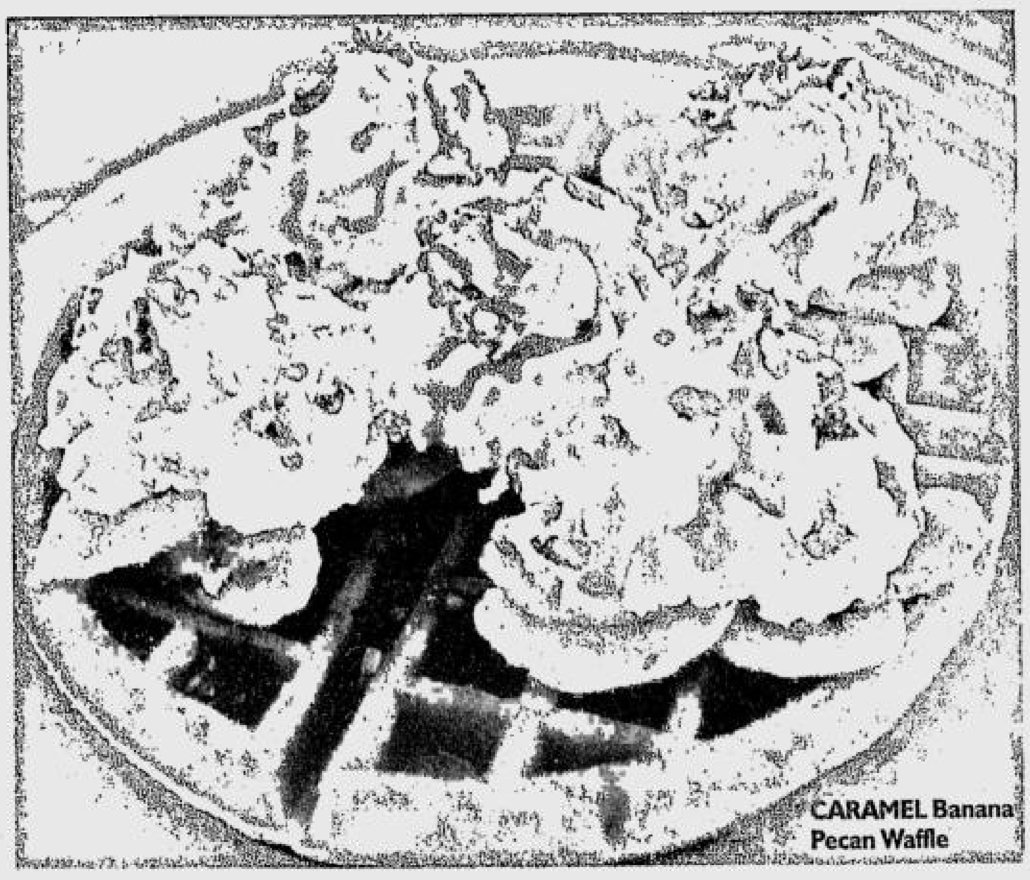


CARAMEL Banana Pecan Waffle

Starting over

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

EAGER TO MOVE ON AND put behind its "troubled" past, Country Waffles is ready to take your orders again.

Yes, it's back. The place that serves thick crusty golden waffles topped with swirls of whipped cream and syrup has new owners and new menu and is under new management.

"We felt it's about time to move on," says Von Samson, purchasing manager of the new Country Waffles on Annapolis Drive in Greenhills. "This is our philosophy: If you close a place, there's no way to recover what you've invested. But, if you open it, there's a good chance you will recoup what you've lost."

The Samson family was probably the single largest investor of Country Waffles before the much-publicized controversy in 2003. Singer Bert Nievera and his wife Carol brought the California restaurant chain franchise to the Philippines. But the couple suddenly upped and left the country, reportedly leaving behind millions in debts to the chain's local investors, among other lenders.

The Samsons felt they had a good product to offer so they reopened Country Waffles at the same spot in Greenhills. They took in new partners, one of whom is Carmelo Galvez who is now managing director.

From scratch

Picking up the pieces wasn't easy for the new owners. To begin with, the place had been wrecked by angry employees who had not been paid salaries and other benefits. They also took things from the restaurant—plates, cups, mugs, coffee makers, even the grand piano.

"I couldn't blame them," says Galvez. "But how they were able to divide up the piano—that I do not know."

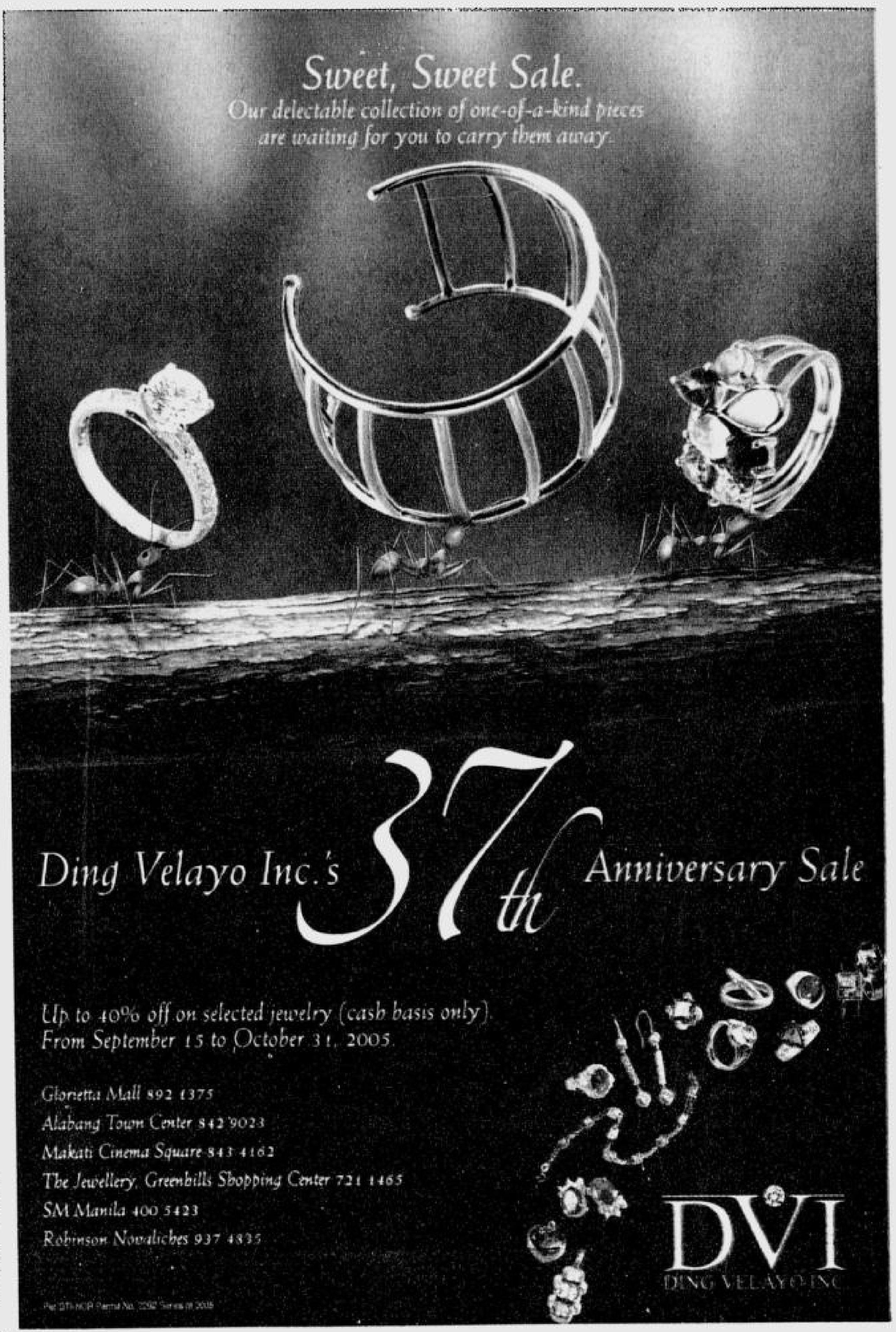
It took several months to rebuild the place and give it a brighter look and atmosphere. The main floor is airy, brightly lit and clean. It has a wood-and-glass facade, flower boxes, wooden chairs and tables. Booths are designed like small gazebos. One can even have breakfast in the patio.

Samson and Galvez are involved in the restaurant's daily operations. Galvez used to run a grill house called Skewers in California, USA. Samson, 25, a management graduate from Ateneo de Manila, used to work for the family shoe business, Itti.

> There's a reason the place is named Country Waffles—it serves the thickest and yummiest waffles in town, not to mention the widest choice of toppings

With the new group comes a new—and more extensive— menu. The restaurant now

STARTING/ E3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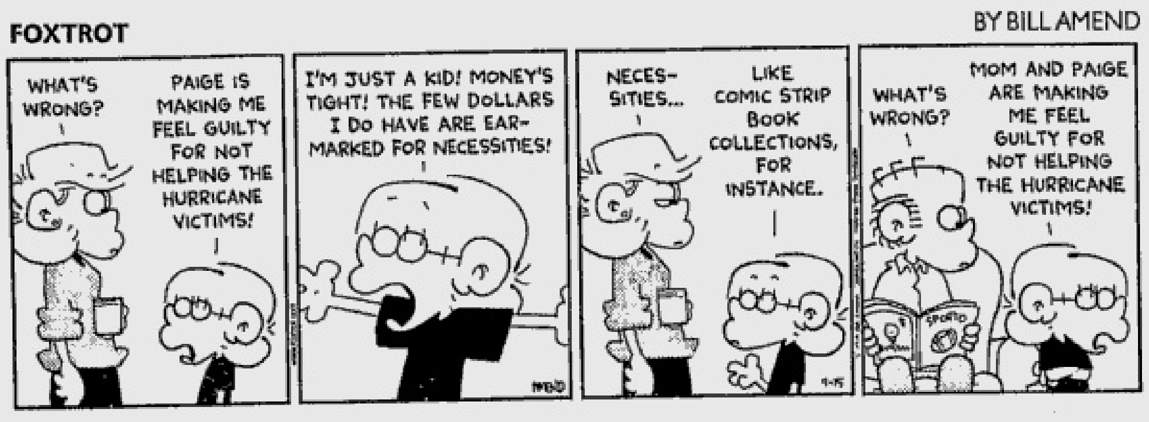
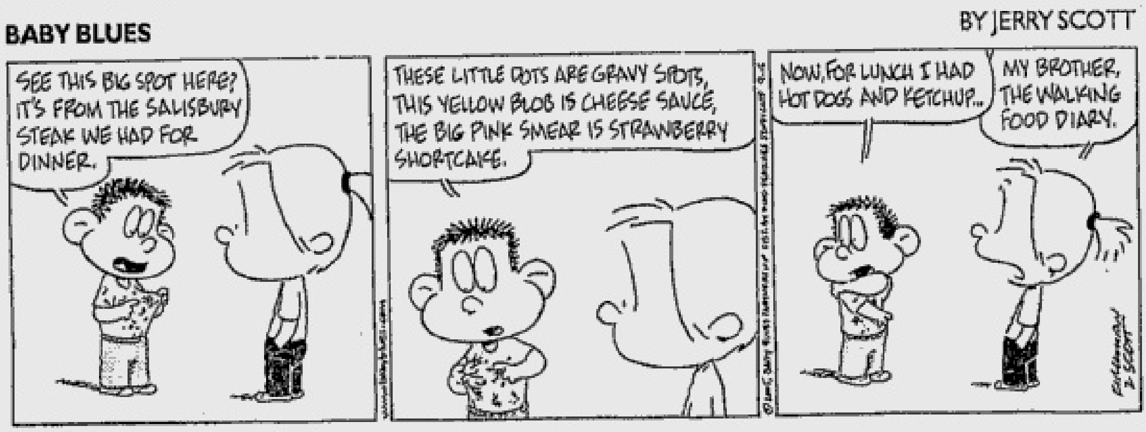
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S WRONG?
PAIGE IS MAKING ME FEEL GUILTY FOR NOT HELPING THE HURRICANE VICTIMS!
I'M JUST A KID! MONEY'S TIGHT! THE FEW DOLLARS I DO HAVE ARE EAR-MARKED FOR NECESSITIES!
NECES-SITIES...
LIKE COMIC STRIP BOOK COLLECTIONS, FOR INSTANCE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
MOM AND PAIGE ARE MAKING ME FEEL GUILTY FOR NOT HELPING THE HURRICANE VICTIMS!

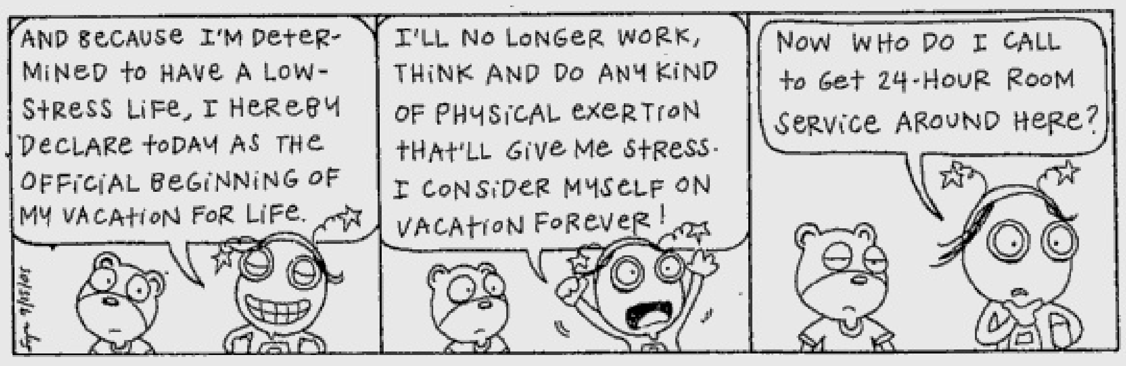
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS A DANGEROUS PLACE, MARVIN, SO I GOT YOU SOMETHING FOR PROTECTION.
WHAT? MACE...? A TASER...?
...INSECT REPELLENT?!!
TRUST ME. YOU GET ATTACKED BY A GANG OF CRAZED MOSQUITOES AND YOU'LL BE PLENTY GLAD YOU HAVE IT!
9-15

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SEE THIS BIG SPOT HERE? IT'S FROM THE SALISBURY STEAK WE HAD FOR DINNER.
THESE LITTLE DOTS ARE GRAVY SPOTS, THIS YELLOW BLOB IS CHEESE SAUCE, THE BIG PINK SMEAR IS STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE.
NOW, FOR LUNCH I HAD HOT DOGS AND KETCHUP...
MY BROTHER, THE WALKING FOOD DIARY.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND BECAUSE I'M DETERMINED TO HAVE A LOW-STRESS LIFE, I HEREBY DECLARE TODAY AS THE OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF MY VACATION FOR LIFE.
I'LL NO LONGER WORK, THINK AND DO ANY KIND OF PHYSICAL EXERTION THAT'LL GIVE ME STRESS. I CONSIDER MYSELF ON VACATION FOREVER!
NOW WHO DO I CALL TO GET 24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE AROUND HERE?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Sometimes you appear shy to others; yet at other times, you're positively exuberant! You become enthused with your creative ideas. You believe that earning a lot of money will give you independence. Tackle big projects this year. Work, construction and building something (literally or physically) will bring you future rewards.
Birthdate of: Prince Harry, British royal; Tommy Lee Jones, actor; Agatha Christie, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're hot stuff at work today. You're gung-ho to get things done. However, late in the day, your enthusiasm becomes a bit too much for some to handle. Go gently.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're full of wonderful, creative ideas today! Be gentle with children, however. Romantic interests could create jealousy and tension. (This is a waste of energy.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day to do repairs at home or fix whatever is broken. Tackle dark and hidden areas related to laundry, basements and storage.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're extremely convincing today. No one can doubt the worth of your ideas. However, if you come on too strong, you will push others away. Therefore, speak softly.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have wonderful moneymaking ideas today. You can probably persuade bosses, supervisors and management to listen to you. Be patient with children, and avoid jealous reactions with romantic interests.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ruler, Mercury, makes a lovely aspect to Mars, and then a harsh aspect to Pluto—all in one day! This means your speech with others is convincing, even intimidating. (Think about this.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ability to research anything or find something that is lost is wonderful today. You'll look under every stone. Nothing is too much trouble. You want what you're after!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You can enthuse the gang today. People will follow you anywhere. You're like the Pied Piper! Just rely on your charm and charisma; don't become dogmatic and overbearing.

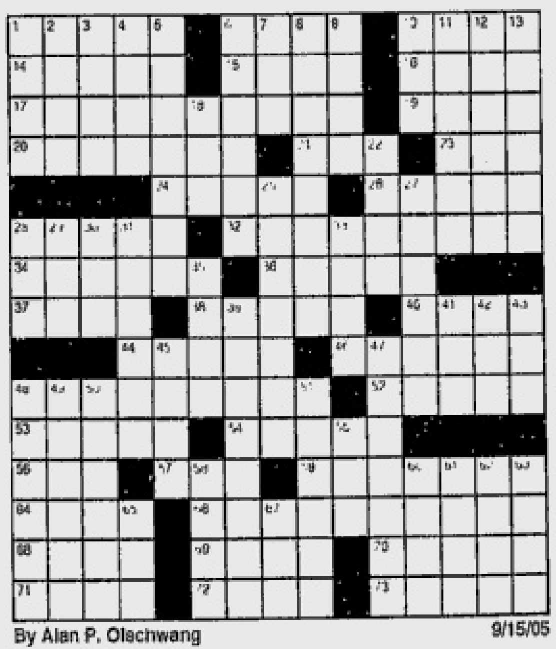
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): People in positions of authority will really lay down the law today. They mean business. There's no pussyfooting around. Therefore, stay out of their way!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Study or research into practically any subject will thrill you today. You're very keen to learn something new. You want to make improvements in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Everything having to do with publishing, the law, medicine, higher education, travel and dealing with foreign countries will go very smoothly today. You're on top of things!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might persuade someone to share something or to take over the responsibility for something. People are inclined to listen to you today. However, watch out for a particular group that has a hidden agenda.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
9/15/05

ACROSS
1 Rigatoni or ziti
6 Charitable donation
10 Features of Nixon tapes
14 Muscle protein
15 Perfectly
16 Whimper
17 Start of a quip
19 Spoken
20 Attached, in a way
21 Hot tub
23 Five before six
24 Related on mother's side
26 Warning device
28 Brothers of fairy tales
32 Part 2 of quip
34 Quagmire
36 Theater worker
37 Witnessed
38 First name in cosmetics
40 French friend
44 Learner, hopefully
46 Ageless in poems
48 Part 3 of quip
52 In crowd
53 Degrade
54 Glacial groove
56 Most remote, briefly
57 Picturesque CA rte.
59 Exhibit indiscriminate anger
64 Oodles
66 End of quip
68 Tropical nut tree
69 Turkey neighbor
70 Twixt's partner
71 Small merganser
72 Le Pew of cartoons
73 Clue to slumber

DOWN
1 Handles roughly
2 Suffer stiffness
3 Leftover dish
4 Fork part
5 Wreaths for heads
6 Unmelodic
7 Brock or Reed
8 Professional rubber
9 Procedure part
10 U.S. pub. grp.
11 __ borealis
12 Sun orbiter
13 Tejano star
18 Sun. follower
22 Tennis great
25 Most constricted
27 Barak's country
28 MLB bosses
29 Shad delicacy
30 Dander
31 Praying __
33 Indian butter
35 Genesis character
39 Tide pool site
41 Med. picture
42 Bank payt.
43 Shoe-box letters
45 Lone Star State sch.
47 Pekoe servers
48 Makes watertight
49 Flowering
50 Reveal by gossip
51 Francis or Dahl
55 Bond's Fleming
58 Poker token
60 Actress Goldie
61 Nabisco cookie
62 Over in Ulm
63 Newcastle's river
65 Carpentry tool
67 Pool length

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

O	N	T	A	P		M	E	L	D		E	R	S	T
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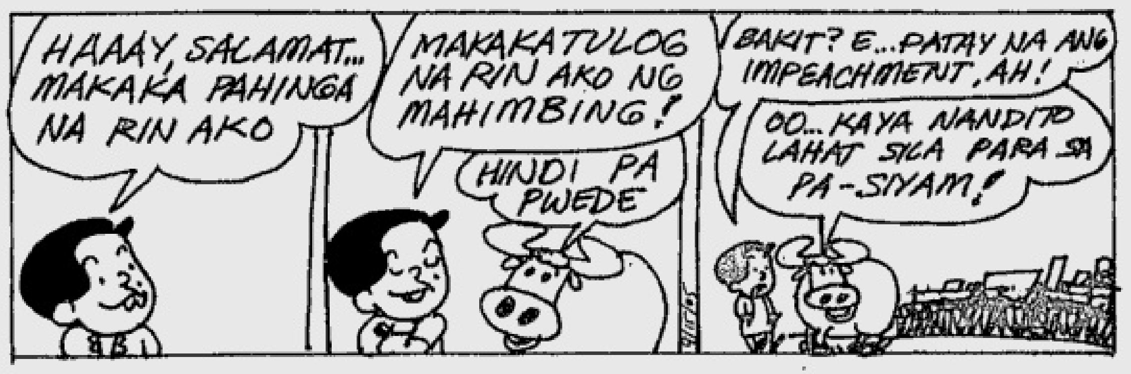
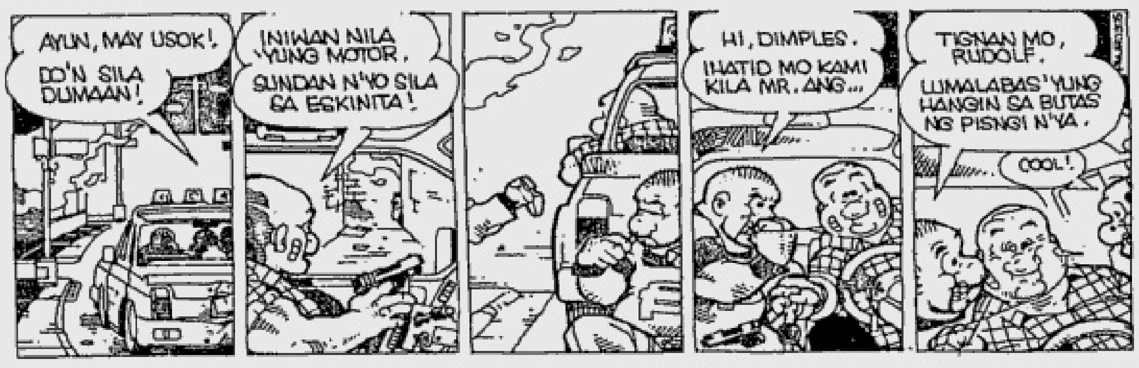
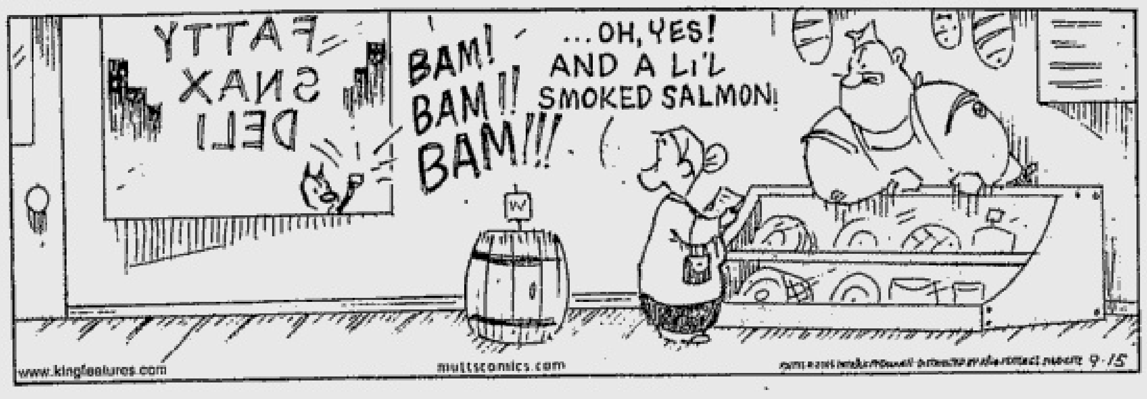
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HAAAY, SALAMAT... MAKAKA PAHINGA NA RIN AKO
MAKAKATULOG NA RIN AKO NG MAHIMBING!
HINDI PA PWEDE
BAKIT? E...PATAY NA ANG IMPEACHMENT, AH!
OO... KAYA NANDITO LAHAT SILA PARA SA PA-SIYAM!

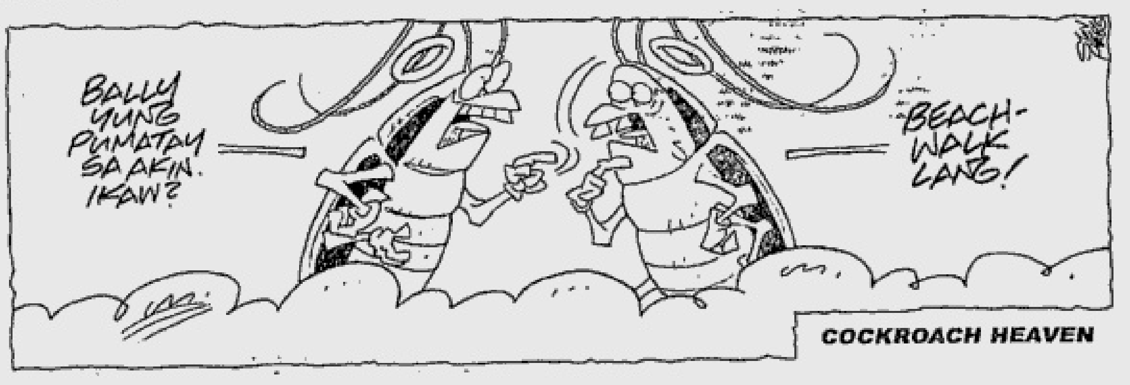
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYUN, MAY USOK!
DO'N SILA DUMAAN!
INIWAN NILA 'YUNG MOTOR.
SUNDAN N'YO SILA SA ESKINITA!
HI, DIMPLES.
IHATID MO KAMI KILA MR. ANG...
TIGNAN MO, RUDOLF.
LUMALABAS 'YUNG HANGIN SA BUTAS NG PISNGI N'YA.
COOL!

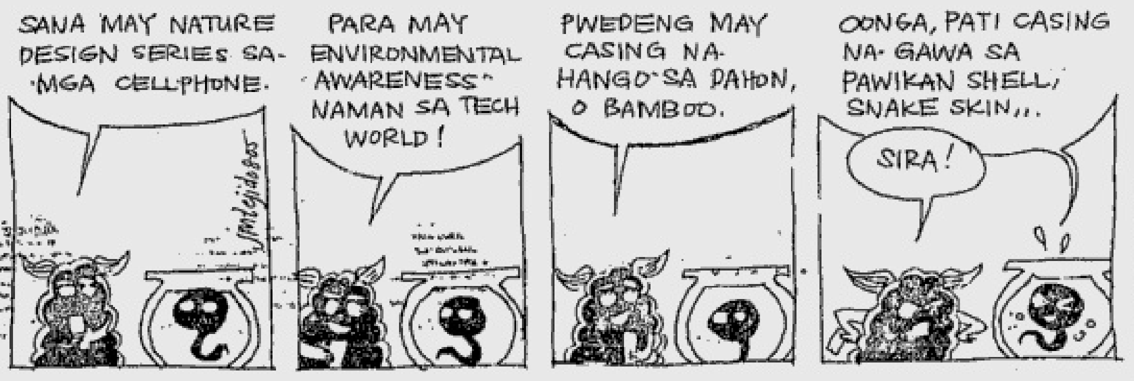
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FATTY SNAX DELI
BAM! BAM!! BAM!!!
...OH, YES! AND A LI'L SMOKED SALMON!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
9-15

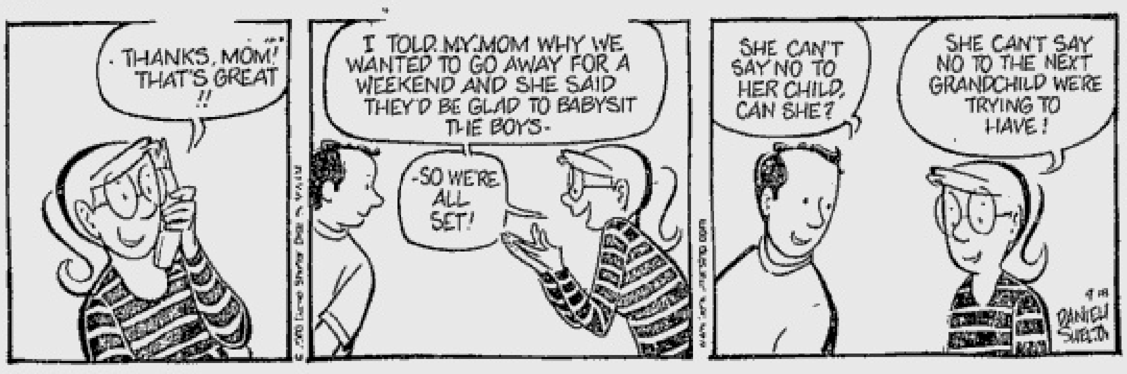
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BALI YUNG PUMATAY SA AKIN. IKAW?
BEACH-WALK LANG!
COCKROACH HEAVEN

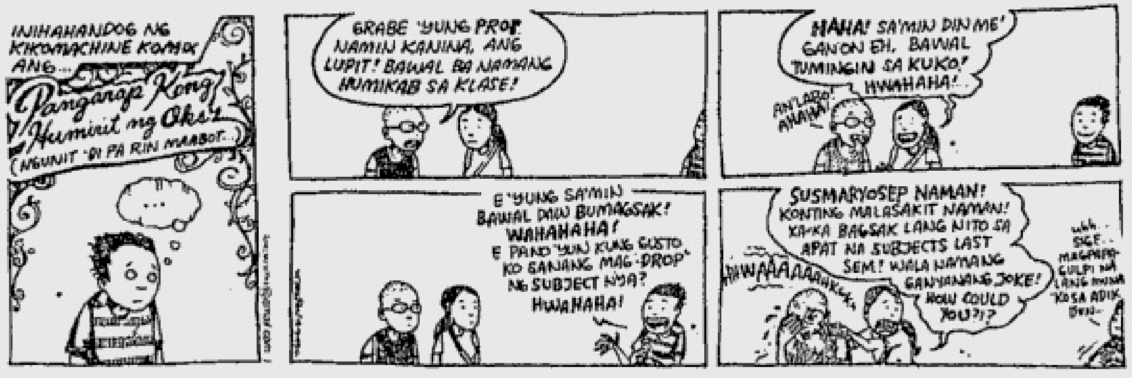
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SANA MAY NATURE DESIGN SERIES SA MGA CELLPHONE.
PARA MAY ENVIRONMENTAL "AWARENESS" NAMAN SA TECH WORLD!
PWEDENG MAY CASING NA HANGO SA DAHON, O BAMBOO.
OONGA, PATI CASING NA GAWA SA PAWIKAN SHELL, SNAKE SKIN,..
SIRA!

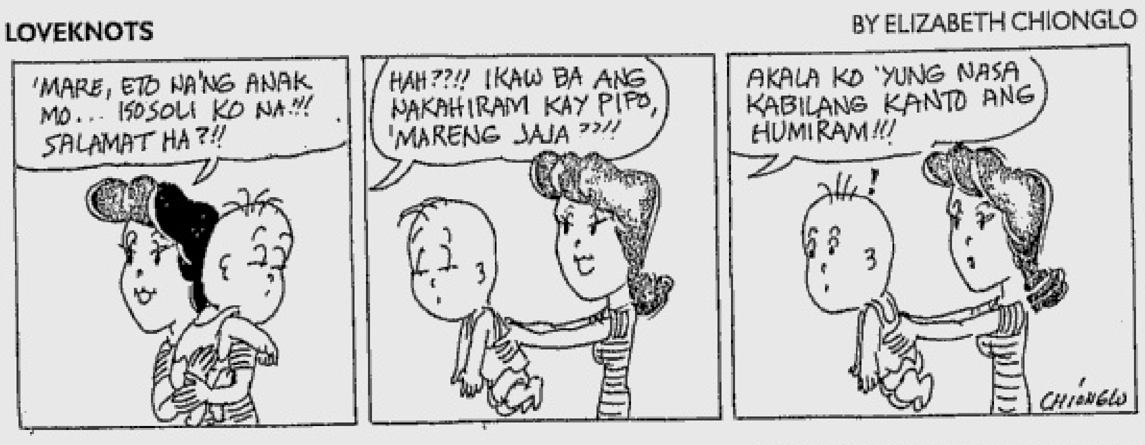
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS, MOM! THAT'S GREAT!!
I TOLD MY MOM WHY WE WANTED TO GO AWAY FOR A WEEKEND AND SHE SAID THEY'D BE GLAD TO BABYSIT THE BOYS-
-SO WE'RE ALL SET!
SHE CAN'T SAY NO TO HER CHILD, CAN SHE?
SHE CAN'T SAY NO TO THE NEXT GRANDCHILD WE'RE TRYING TO HAVE!

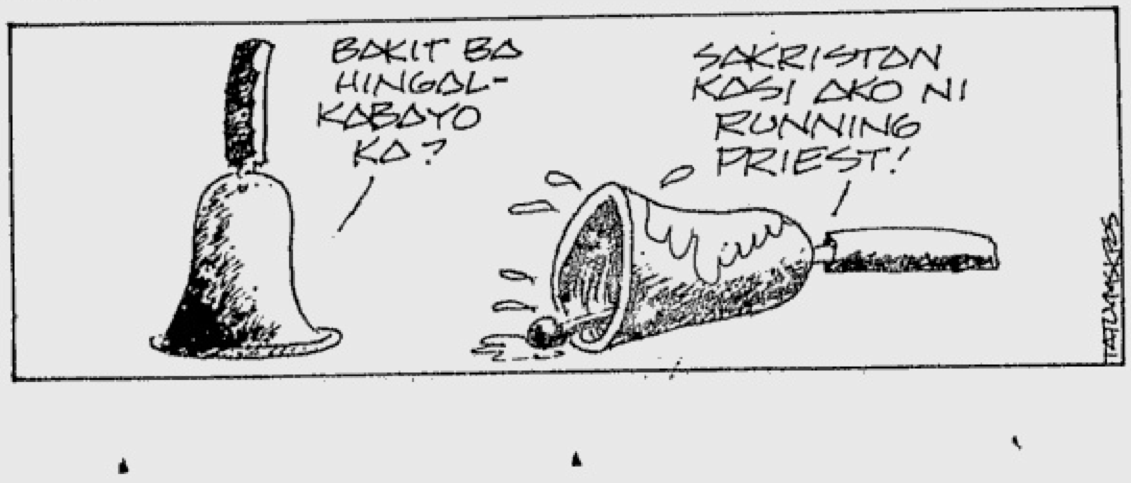
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


INIHAHANDOG NG KIKOMACHINE KOMIX ANG...
Pangarap Kong Humirit ng Oks!
(NGUNIT 'DI PA RIN MAABOT...)
...
GRABE 'YUNG PROF NAMIN KANINA, ANG LUPIT! BAWAL BA NAMANG HUMIKAB SA KLASE!
HAHA! SA'MIN DIN ME' GANON EH. BAWAL TUMINGIN SA KUKO! HWAHAHA!
ANLABO! AHAHA!
E 'YUNG SA'MIN BAWAL DAW BUMAGSAK! WAHAHAHA!
E PANO 'YUN KUNG GUSTO KO GANANG MAG-DROP NG SUBJECT N'YA? HWAHAHA!
SUSMARYOSEP NAMAN! KONTING MALASAKIT NAMAN! KA-KA BAGSAK LANG NITO SA APAT NA SUBJECTS LAST SEM! WALA NAMANG GANYANANG JOKE! HOW COULD YOU?!?
HWAAAAAAAHKK..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


'MARE, ETO NA'NG ANAK MO... ISOSOLI KO NA!!! SALAMAT HA?!!
HAH??!! IKAW BA ANG NAKAHIRAM KAY PIPO, 'MARENG JAJA??!!
AKALA KO 'YUNG NASA KABILANG KANTO ANG HUMIRAM!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA HINGAL-KABAYO KA?
SAKRISTAN KASI AKO NI RUNNING PRIEST!

Starting over

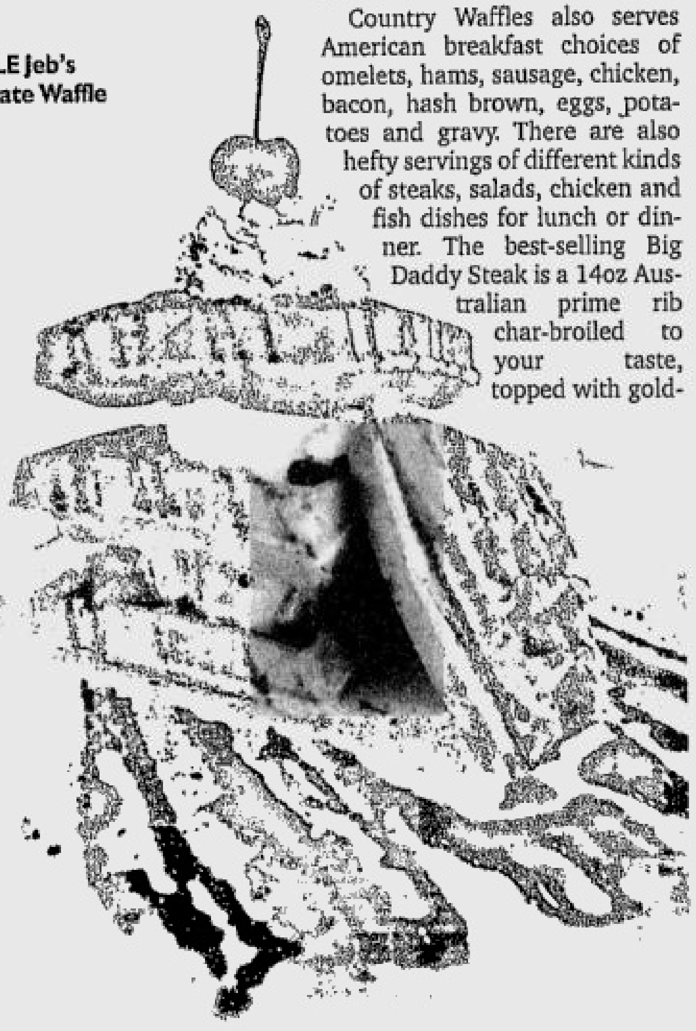
From page E1

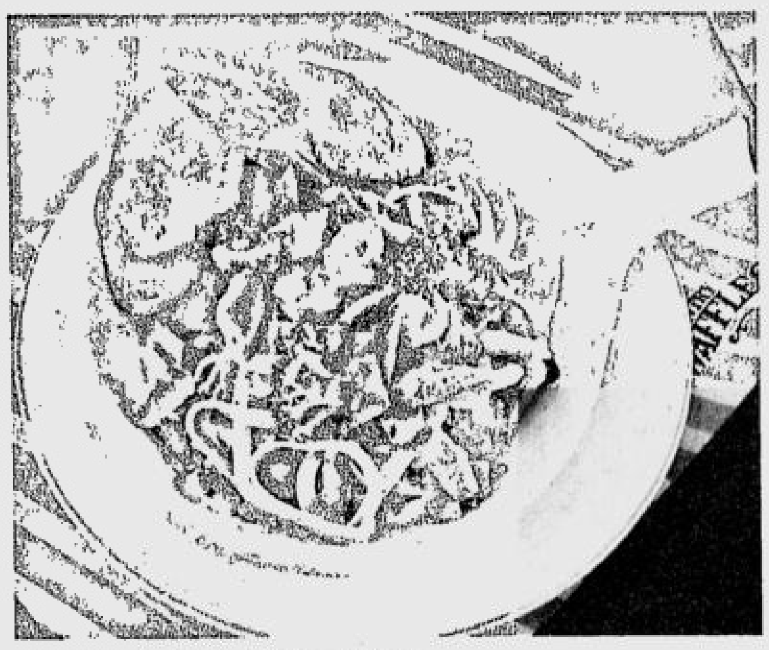
serves about a dozen varieties of waffles. Aside from plain, one can have, among others, raisin cinnamon apple, peaches n'cream, peanut butter and bananas, choco nutella banana, blueberry, strawberry and mango—all day and almost all night long.

Bestsellers

Bestsellers are Uncle Jeb's Ultimate Waffle, a three-decker sinful feast of chocolate and vanilla ice cream waffle sandwich topped with whipped cream and cherry, garnished with Oreo cookie crumbs and chocolate syrup; and the caramel banana pecan that comes with slices of banana with whipped cream topped with chopped pecans and drizzled with classic caramel sauce. The waffles, thick and paired with imported syrups and cream, are priced reasonably from P95 to P245.

Country Waffles also serves American breakfast choices of omelets, hams, sausage, chicken, bacon, hash brown, eggs, potatoes and gravy. There are also hefty servings of different kinds of steaks, salads, chicken and fish dishes for lunch or dinner. The best-selling Big Daddy Steak is a 14oz Australian prime rib char-broiled to your taste, topped with golden fried onion rings and served with vegetables, mashed potatoes and bourbon sauce. Kansas City-style Babyback Ribs is a slab of pork ribs, marinated and basted with sweet smoky barbecue sauce, and served with golden crisp fries and coleslaw.


UNCLE Jeb's Ultimate Waffle


AUNT Martha's Spicy Shrimp Alfredo

They also have American burgers and sandwiches—Swiss, BBQ burger, mushroom and bacon, grilled cheese and grilled vegetable. For those with a taste for Italian, there's spaghetti bolognese, pesto, Aunt Martha's carbonara or puttanesca.

Breakfast Filipino style includes boneless *bangus*, beef *tapa*, Vigan *longanisa* and *bagnet*, and Angus beef *tapa*.

Family day

Since Country Waffles is a family restaurant, the new management has come up with different activities and promos for parents and their kids.

On Wednesday evenings, it has ballroom dancing for moms and dads on the second floor.

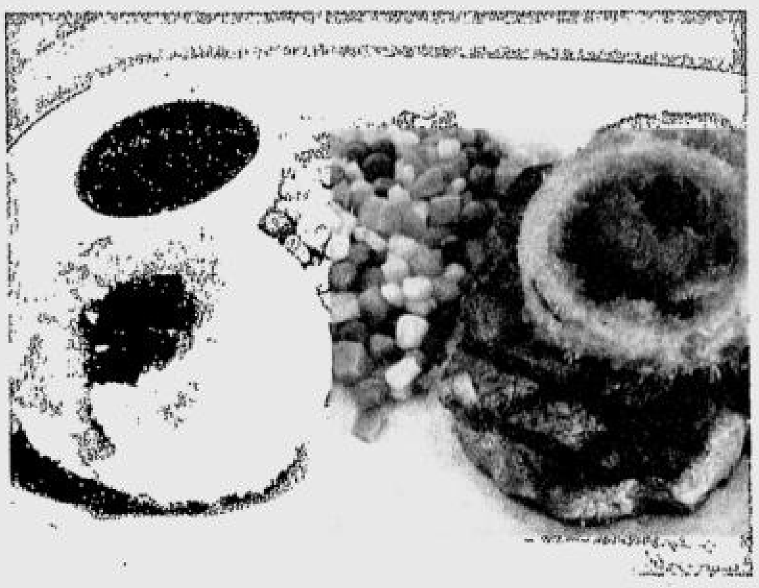
Saturdays are fun days for children, with balloons, clowns, magicians, cotton candy and party giveaways. Children celebrating their birthdays can have their party in the restaurant for free. But even kids who are not having a birthday can enjoy the fun offerings when they dine at Country Waffles on Saturdays.

"We just like your children to enjoy minus the hassles of organizing your own party. Your kids will also get to meet other children and play with them," says Samson.

On Sundays, it's brunch buffet for the whole family with a wide selection of omelets, waffles and salads. It's a full breakfast fare including *tocino, longganisa,* sausages and ham.

Country Waffles is located at 12 Annapolis Drive, Northeast Greenhills, San Juan and is open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, and till midnight on weekends.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph.


BIG Daddy Steak

CARMELO Galvez, Country Waffles managing director, and Von Samson, purchasing manager

InqBox
Question of the Week
Your message to Manny Pacquiao?
Win this *Inquirer shirt
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's InqBox wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!Ü
inquirer box name/age/city/message.
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday September 15, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision	New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo							
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Tenpin Masters 2005				Sentro	Brunei Cup.					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Traffic		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		ME TV		Boxing		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Jams	Wild N' Out	MTV Pop Inc.		Boiling Points	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		MTV Play		Diyes		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Lokal	Brand New	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN	Major League Baseball						Solheim Cup Carmel				Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Sportscenter Asia	Women's Pro Billiards '05		Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		WTA 2005			FIVB World Grand Prix '05				In This Corner		Sports Desk	Solar TV's NBA Rookies		WNBA Game Finals			
Sports Plus					Golf Hawaii 2004	Celebrity Poker Tournament				Raceworld		NFL 2005						Nascar Chevy Rock and Roll 400	
Cinemax			Pal Joey			Poodle Springs (5:15PM)				Men Don't Leave				The Ring				Cabin Fever (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Strong Medicine		Almost Salinas			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Evolver	One Step Beyond	Extreme Engineering		Austin Stevens		Anatomical Travelogues		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Mission Mars		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machines	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo Rescue	Toonami Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Danny Phantom		All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	ChalkZone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix!	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	Growing Up Gotti/ 8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter	Rockstar	Arrested Development/Less Than Perfect	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)			Now See This	Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Amazing Race 5		Worst Case Scenario		24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs	Beat The Geeks	WWE Summer Slam				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Iron Jawed Angels (3:15PM)				Big Fish (5:15PM)				2 Fast 2 Furious (7:15PM)				Dumb And Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd	Sex And The City 84: Boy, Interrupted (10:25PM)	Sex And The City 85: The Domino Effect (10:55PM)	Taking Lives (11:25PM)		
Star Movies	Flavors (2:25PM)				Nicholas Nickleby (4:25PM)				Opening Night (6:40PM)	That Thing You Do! (7:10PM)				Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen			Calendar Girls (10:35PM)		
Cinema One		Bang Shang A Lang		Ama, Ina, Anak				Wasabi				A Tale Of Two Sisters				Bagsik Ng Kamao			
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Sunshine in a bottle and other varietals

By Constantino C. Tejero

Toast 2005 features 28 wineries and brings to the country five of Australia's top wine-makers

SO WHAT'S WRONG with Merlot?

"Nothing," says Australian wine expert Brett Tolhurst. "If you like it. It is a very popular French variety—oh, the French do it better than anyone else. Merlot is very easy to drink, it hasn't much tannin, so there's no bitterness. Because it is very popular in Napa Valley, it is an easy target."

That should put to rest the anxieties of occasional wine-drinkers who've long been wondering about the massive put-down this wine received in last year's movie "Sideways."

Questions about Merlot and other varietals, including the snob appeal of Pinot Noir, will be hopefully satisfied at the festival Toast 2005. Billed as "the grandest and most extravagant wine festival in the country ever," it will be held Sept. 16-17, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., in The Tent at Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Hosted by Wine Depot, the festival features 28 wineries and brings to the country five of Australia's top wine-makers. There will be master classes and wine-tasting, gala dinner and auction. Over 100 wine selections from around the world will be poured, with sampling of foods from top hotels and restaurants. Entrance fee is P250.

"That's what will cost to walk in, which is not even a glass of wine in a fine restaurant," laughs Tolhurst.

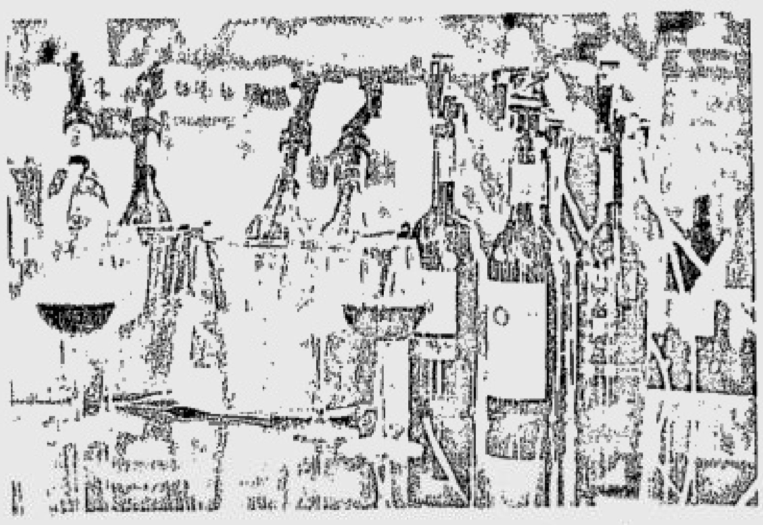
Soft trial

The festival had a soft trial last year, for three days, with eight suppliers. Tolhurst estimates there were some 500 walk-ins.

At the launch of Toast 2005, Tolhurst, who's been consultant of Wine Depot for five years, gives members of the media a sampling of his expertise. He says Australian wines are popular with Filipinos because they're "easy to understand, friendly to drink, for New World wine-drinkers."

He explains: "The Australian palate is more fruit-driven. We let wine age for five years, when its unfriendly characters start to mellow."

TABLE wines, "serious" wines, and wines with snob appeal


THE REDS and the whites for two giddy days of wine-tasting

RARE vintages selected by guest wine-makers will be auctioned at the festival's Meet the Wine-Makers gala dinner for the benefit of the Chosen Children Foundation.

He cites as example Houghton White Burgundy, which he calls "sunshine in a bottle," the best-selling white wine in Australia for the last 15 years. Served well-chilled, it brims with fresh citrus, passion fruit, tropical fruit.

"There's no bitterness, no astringency, which is what you taste first with other wines," continues Tolhurst. "There's no alcohol taste, just fruit flavors."

Serious wines

Seventy-five percent of Wine Depot's stocks is Australian wines, 10 percent Californian, and the rest French, Italian, Spanish, Argentinean, Chilean, South African. Some 10 percent of which is table wines, and the rest..."serious wines," says Tolhurst.

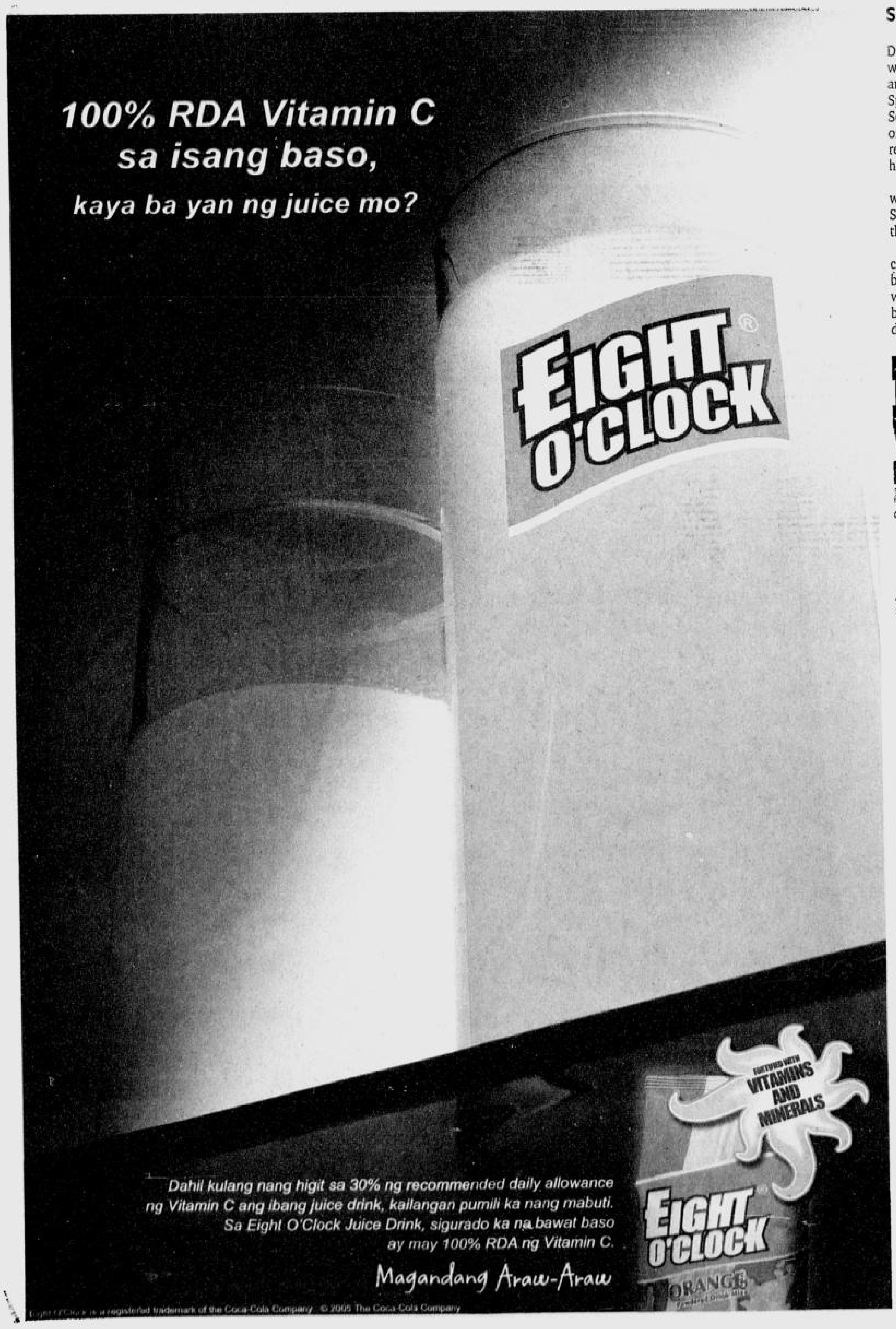
He says Japan is the biggest wine market in Asia, followed by Singapore and Hong Kong, with the Philippines at eighth.

And he reveals a downer: The country could be a grape-grower but, with all the technology, would never be a wine-producer because of its wet season. Mindanao could have been the closest we can have of a wine-producing region because of the quality of its soil, "but not with all the rains."

Still, we can have our wine and drink it, too. Tolhurst is inviting the serious drinkers to the Shiraz Challenge and the Houghton Wine-Tasting in the classes (at P500 and P750, with limited seats of 20) to be conducted by master wine-makers during the two-day festival.

For the really serious drinkers, wine aficionados and connoisseurs, there's the gala dinner and auction (regular table at P3,500, wine-makers' table at P5,000). This is the crowning event of the weekend of bacchanalia.

JOANNA Gallent, Wine Depot manager, presents the store's selections for the wine festival Toast 2005.


100% RDA Vitamin C
sa isang baso,
kaya ba yan ng juice mo?

Dahil kulang nang higit sa 30% ng recommended daily allowance ng Vitamin C ang ibang juice drink, kailangan pumili ka nang mabuti. Sa Eight O'Clock Juice Drink, sigurado ka na bawat baso ay may 100% RDA ng Vitamin C.

Magandang Araw-Araw

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Choose your own reward

BURGER KING INTROduces the Grand Birthday Freebies promo.

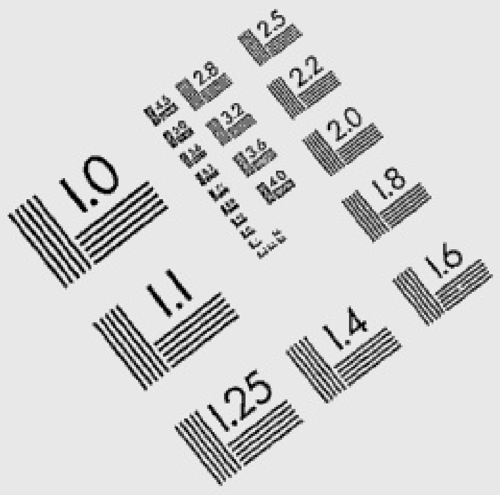
People holding their birthday celebration at BK can choose from the following rewards: a Goldilocks cake, SM Department Store or Robinsons Department Store gift certificates, and Disney book sets with interactive compact discs.

They can also choose from a range of activity books.

Visit or call the following Burger King party restaurants: SM Manila, 5210387; SM Fairview, 4193544; Kanlaon, 781-7084, 7128212; Marcos Highway, 6771797, 647-8887; Timog, 3719955; Robinsons Place Ermita, 5225848; E. Rodriguez, 7277333, 7051420; Antipolo, 6970516, 630-4844; Greenbelt 1, 8404152; Alabang Town Center, 8422338; SM Marilao, 044-9332122; Calamba, 049-5450775; Robinsons Galleria, 633-9949; Isetann, 7361705; and Gloris, 7311675.

BURGER King mascots Kid Vid and Boomer interacting with guests

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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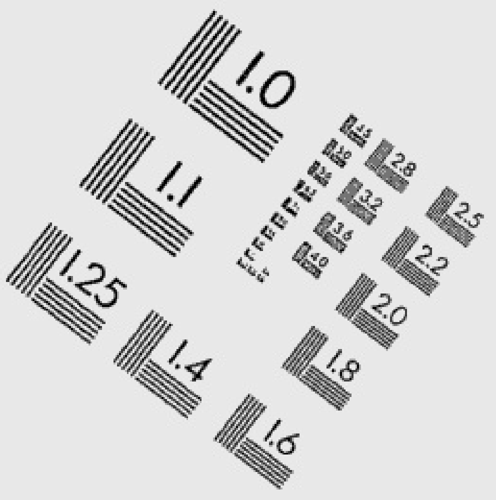
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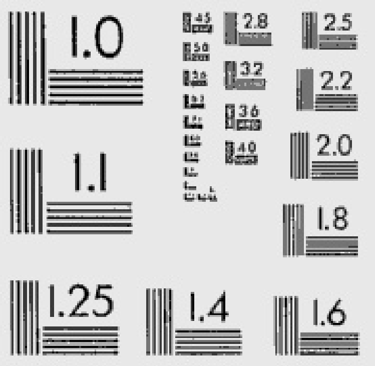
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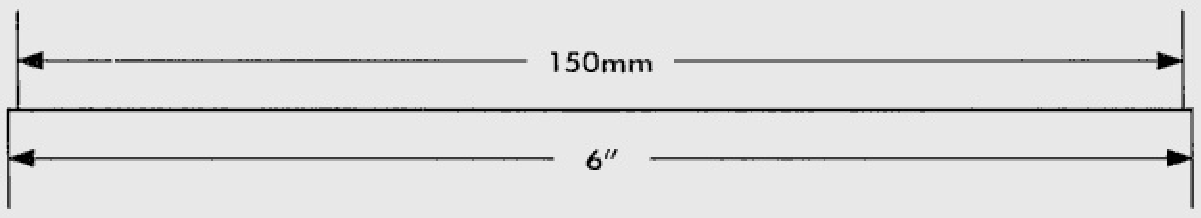

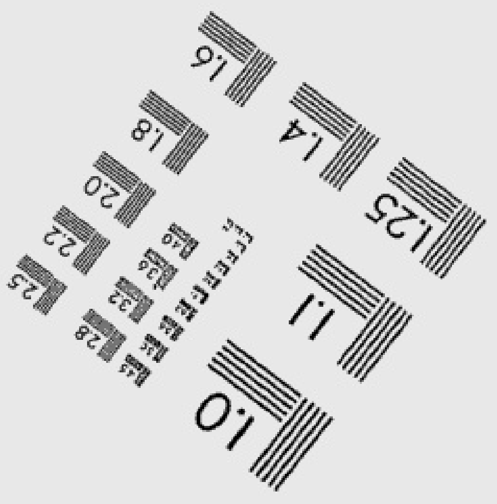
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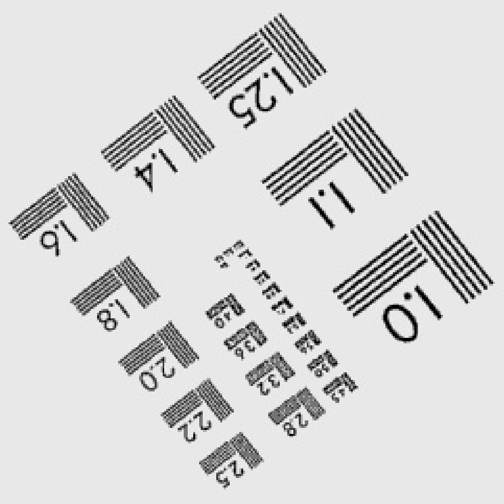
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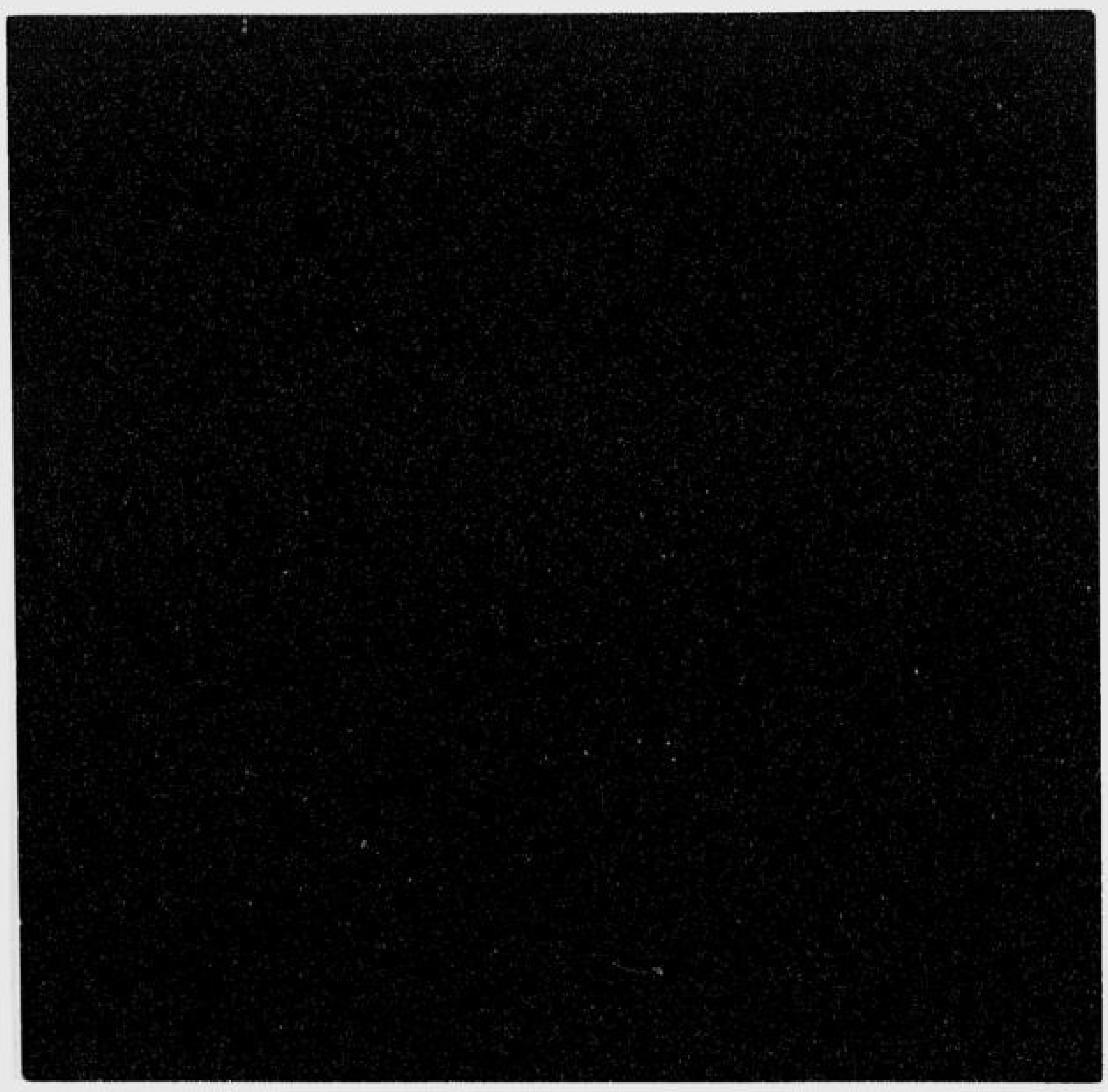


END

PLEASE REWIND

START

ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY
RIZAL LIBRARY

P.O. BOX 154, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION FORBIDDEN

FILMED: OCTOBER 2005

REDUCTION: 19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER
16 THRU 30
2005

REEL 365

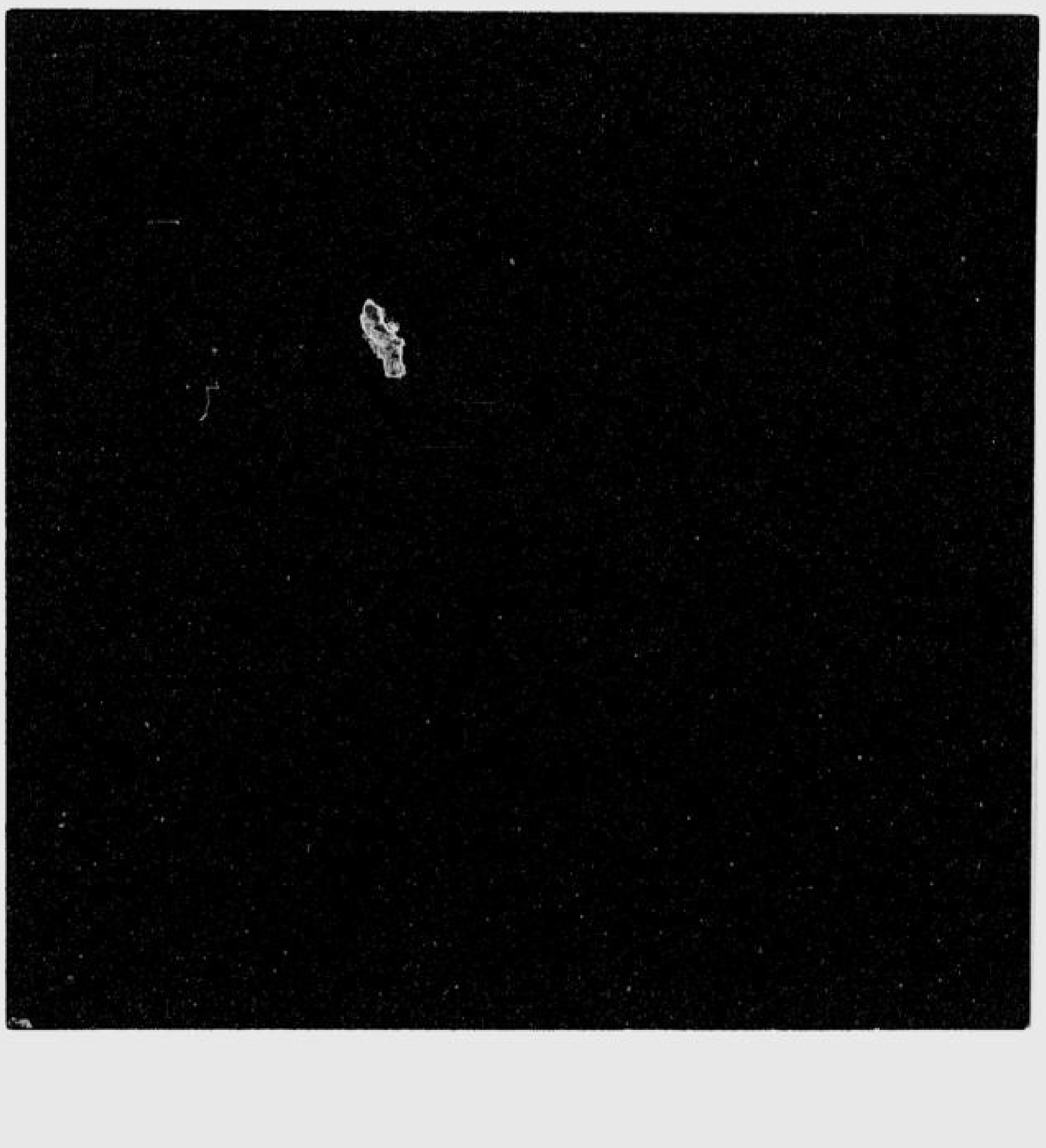
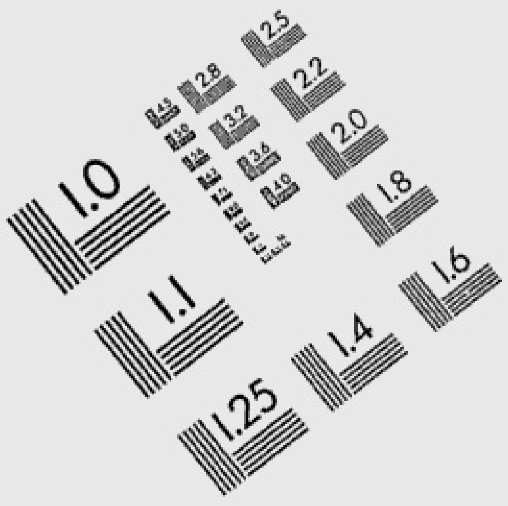


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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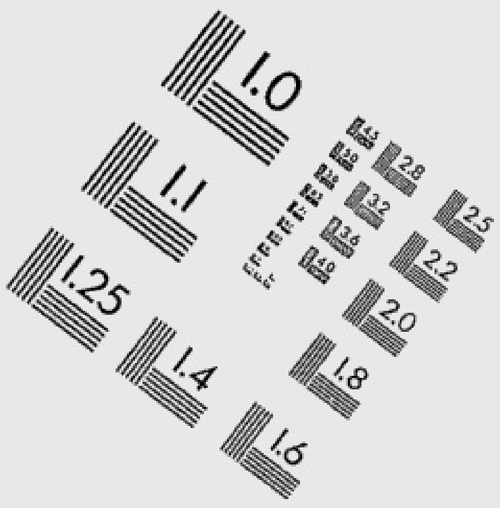
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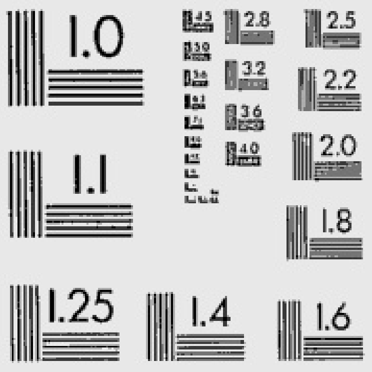
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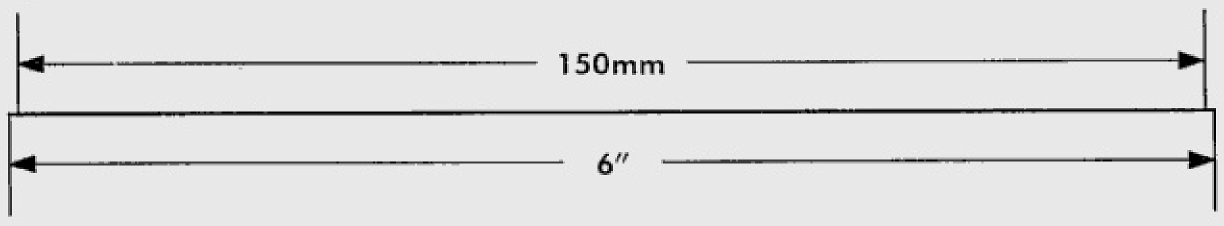

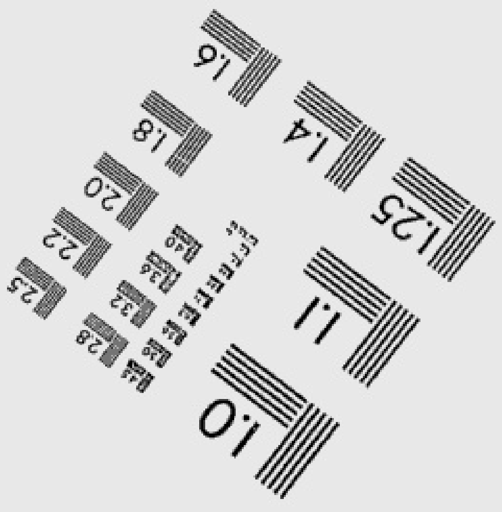
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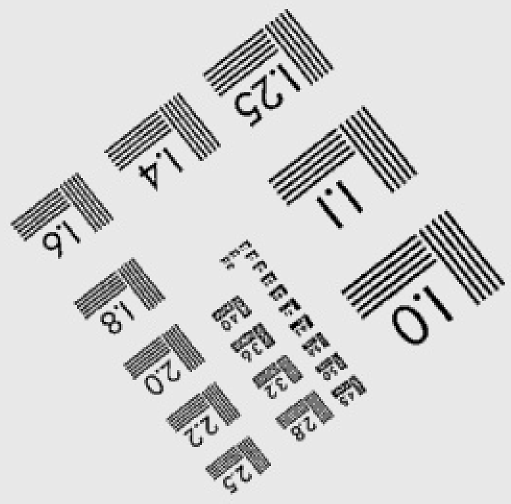
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